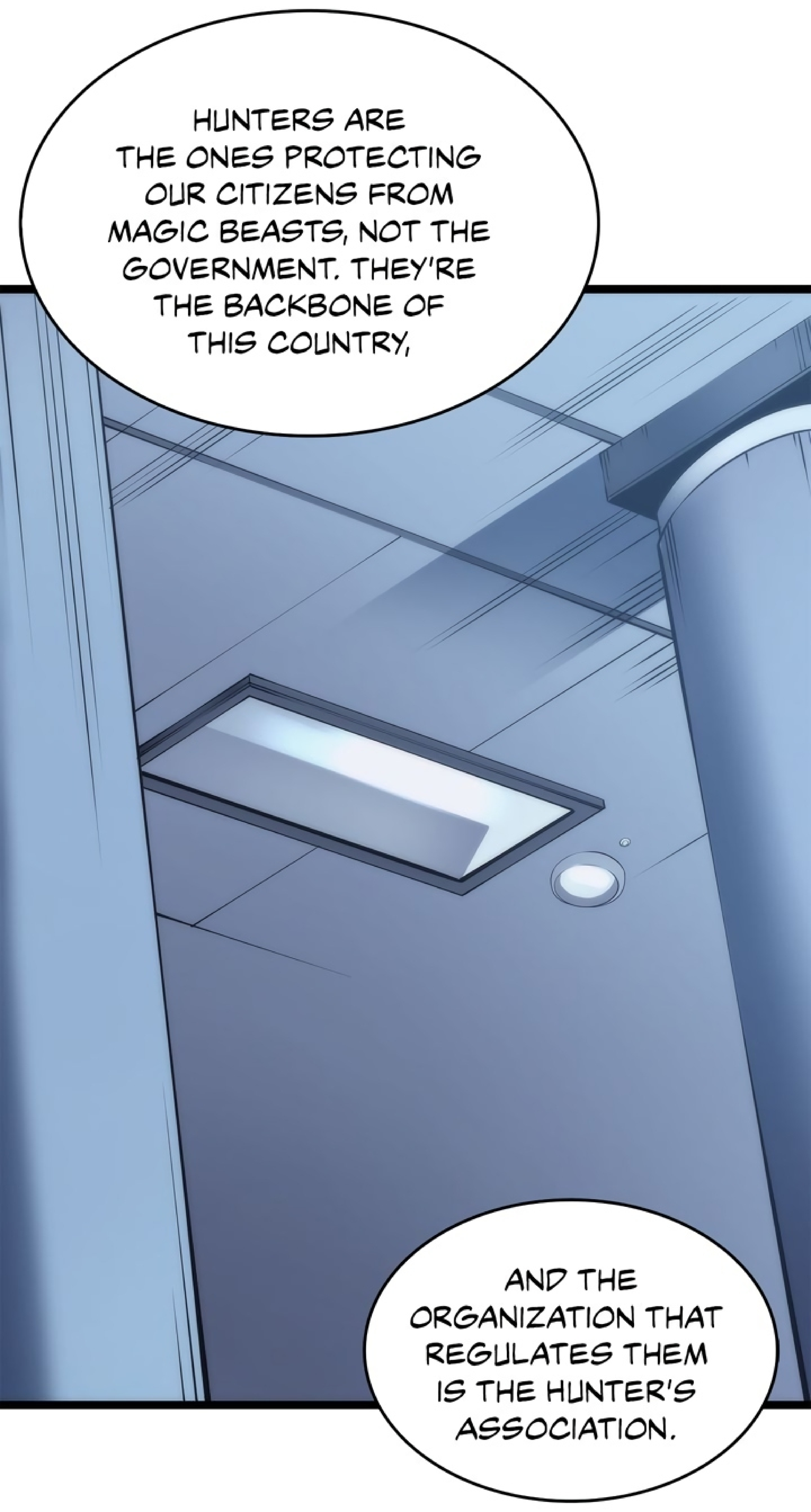
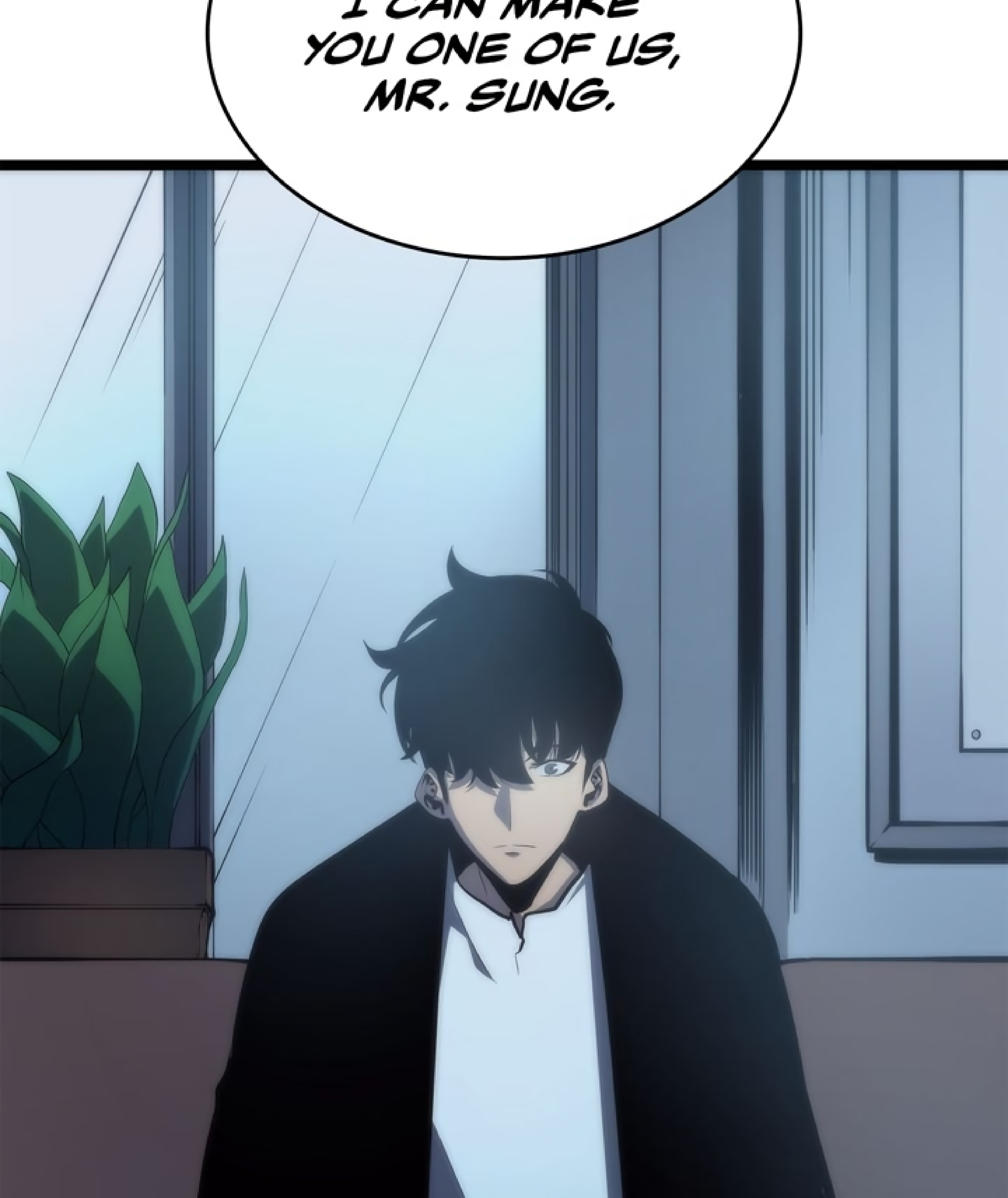
Solo Leveling

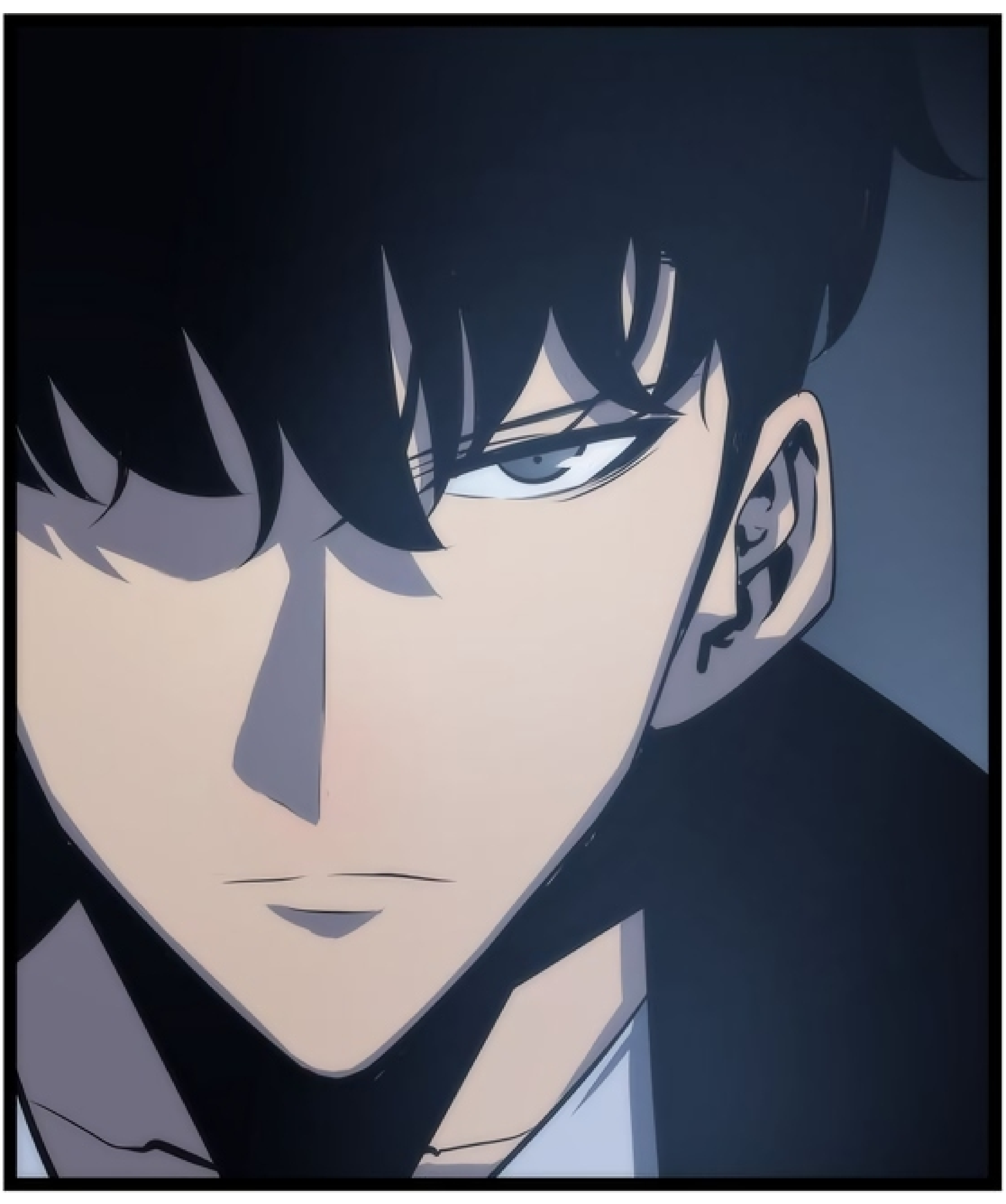
Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

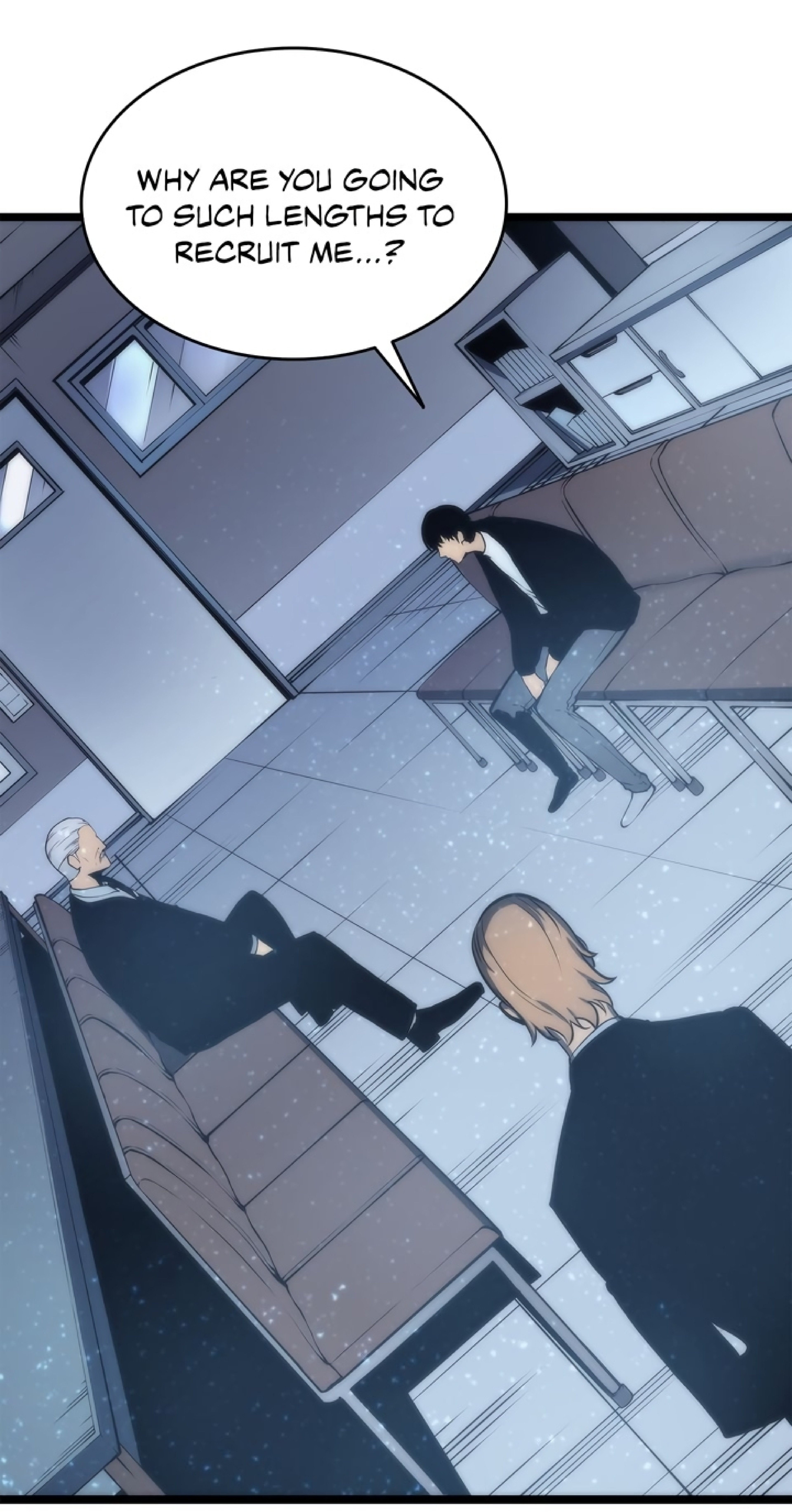
64

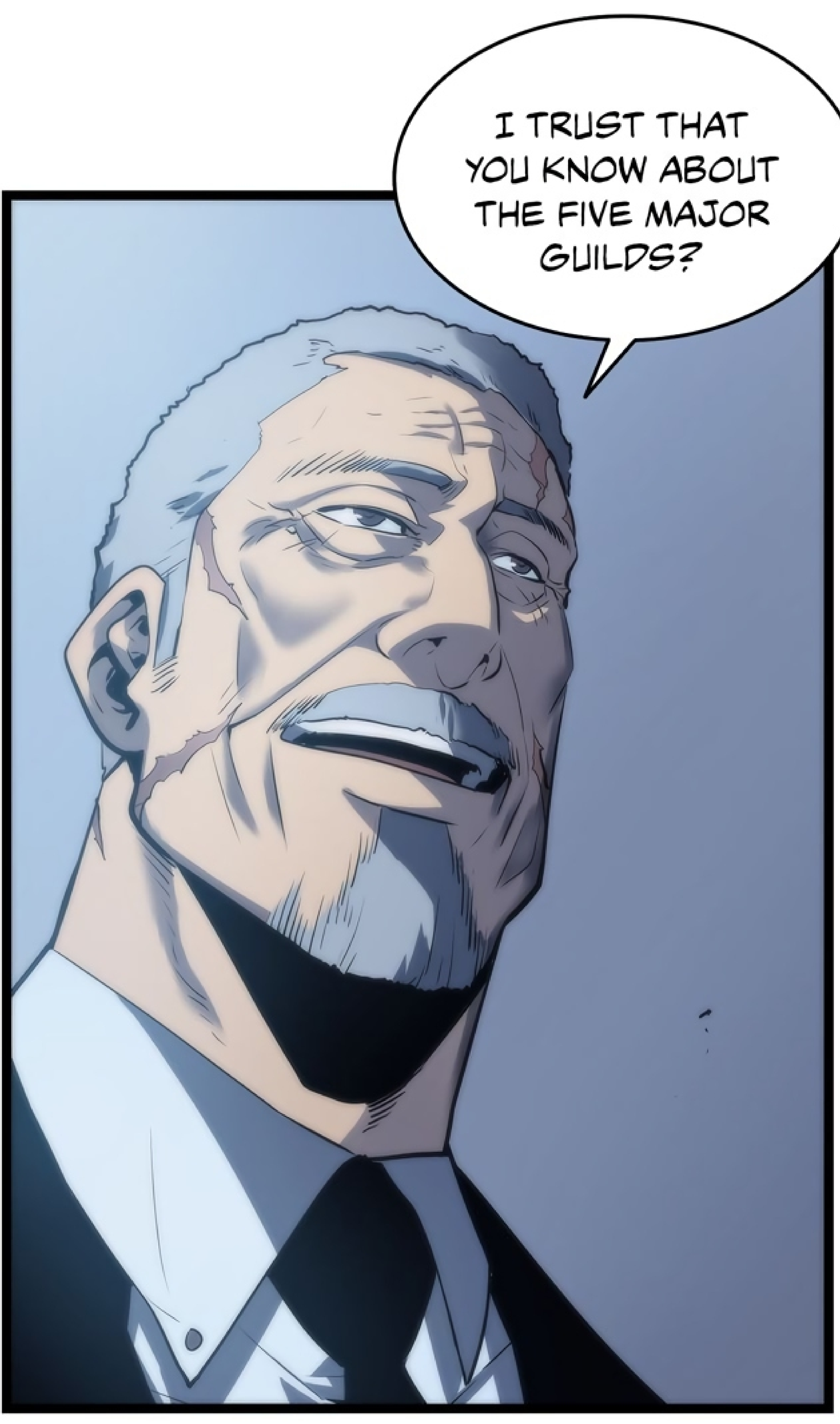

HUNTERS ARE THE ONES PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS FROM MAGIC BEASTS, NOT THE GOVERNMENT. THEY'RE THE BACKBONE OF THIS COUNTRY,
AND THE ORGANIZATION THAT REGULATES THEM IS THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION.


I CAN MAKE YOU ONE OF US, MR. SUNG.

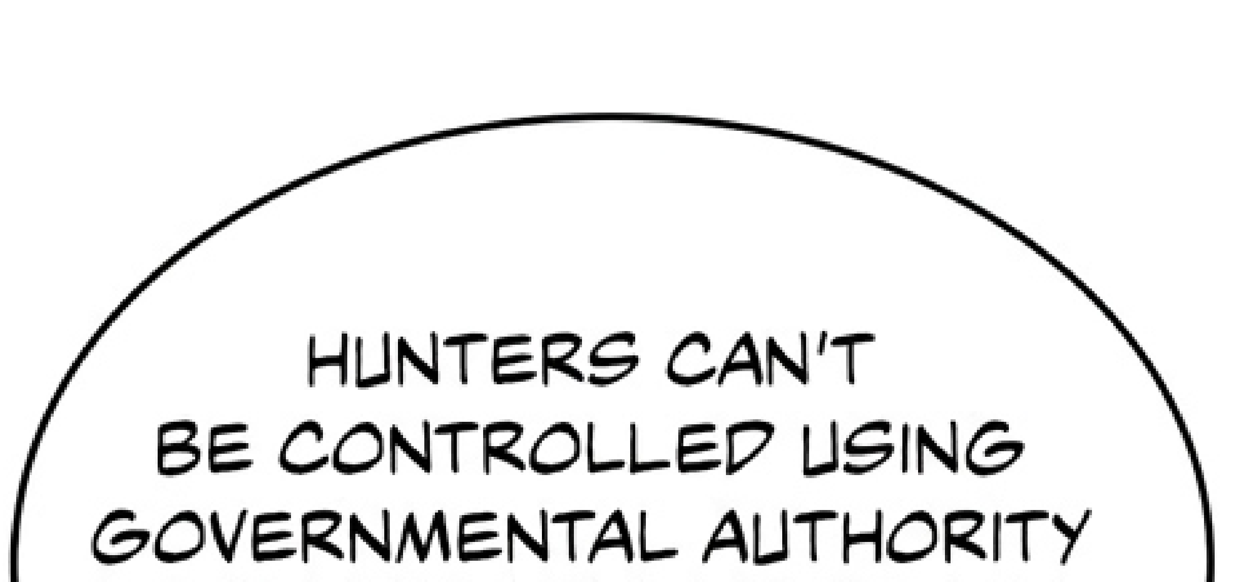
SO HE'S OFFERING ME... POWER?

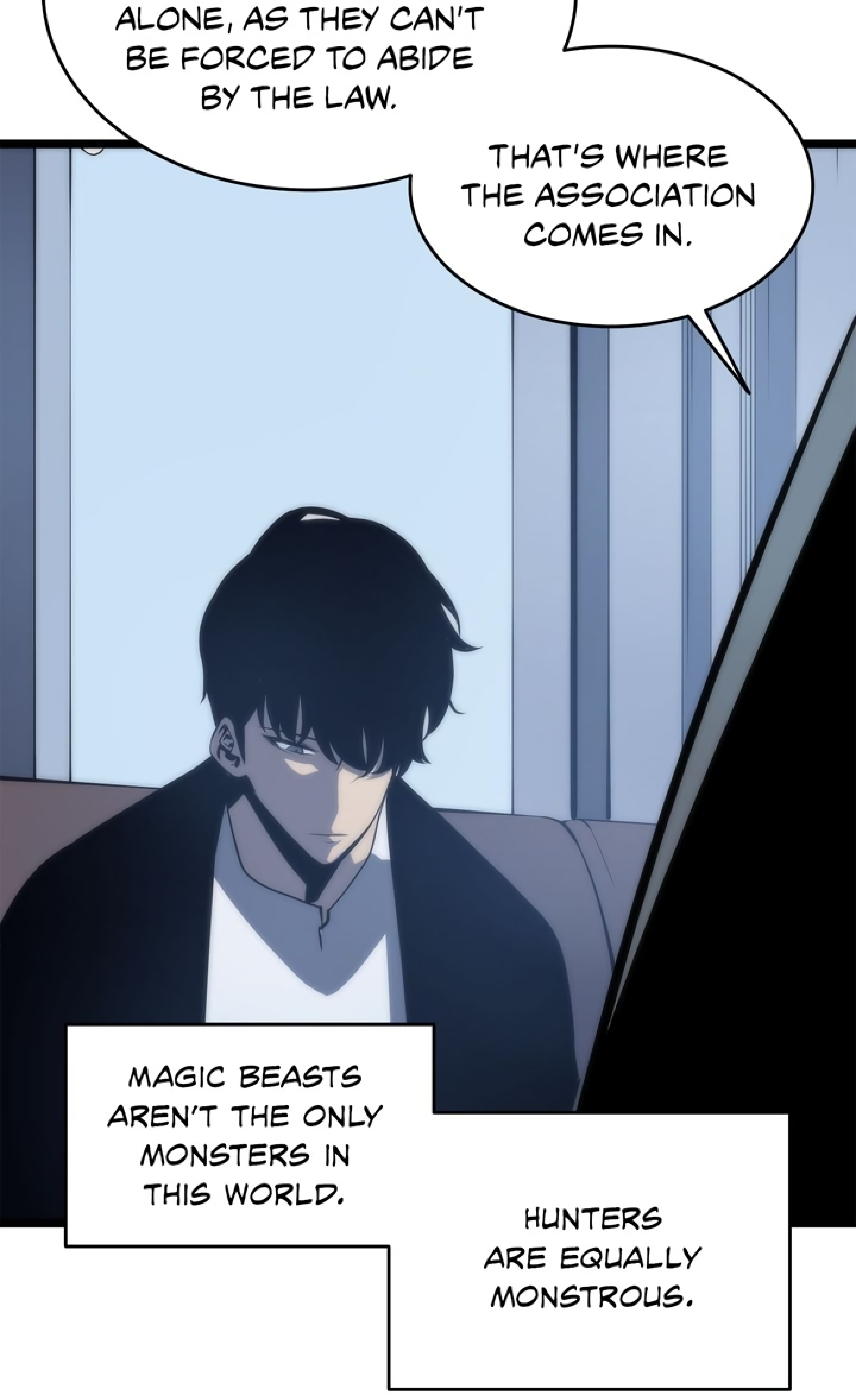


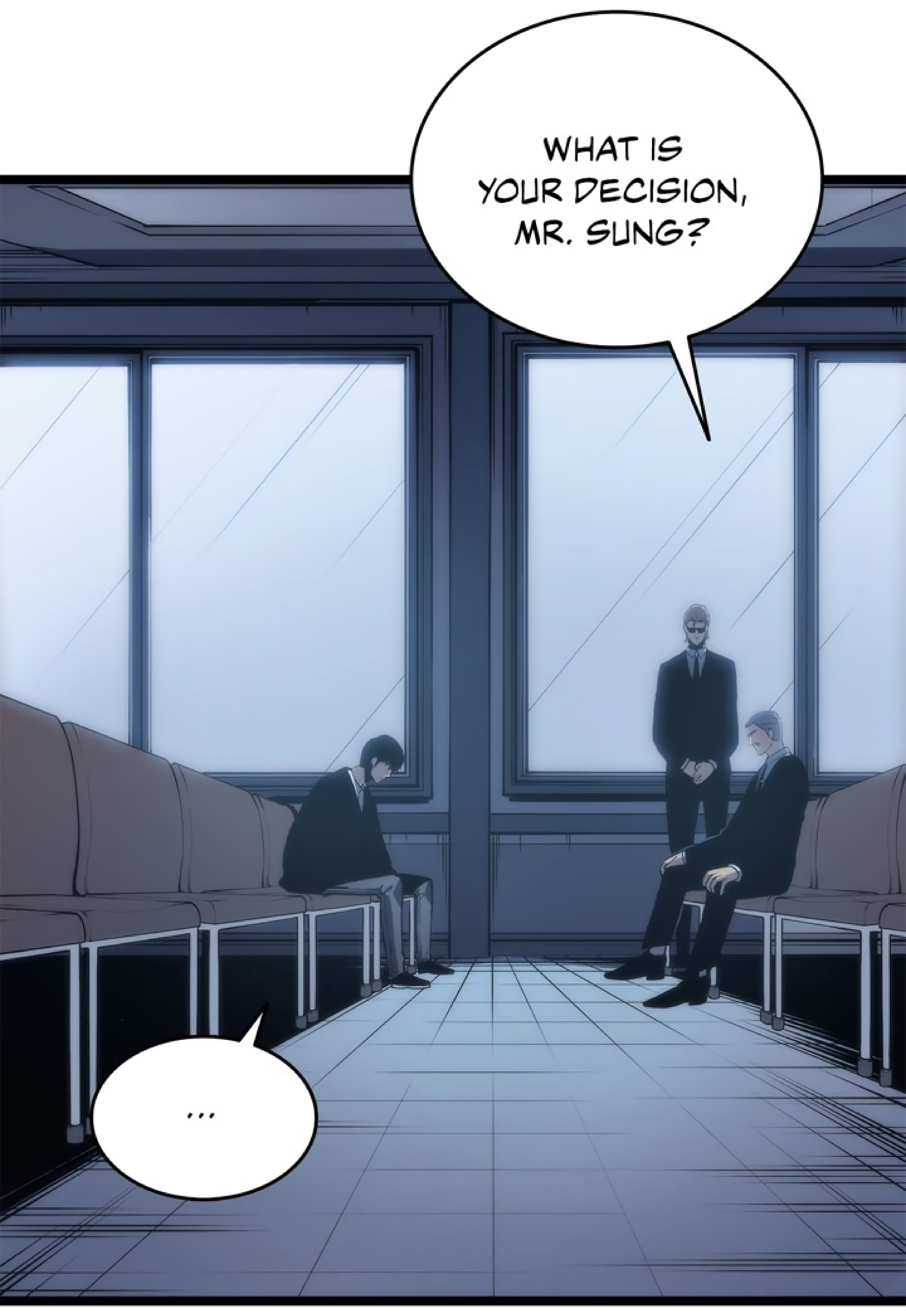

WHY ARE YOU GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS TO RECRUIT ME...?


I TRUST THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FIVE MAJOR GUILDS?

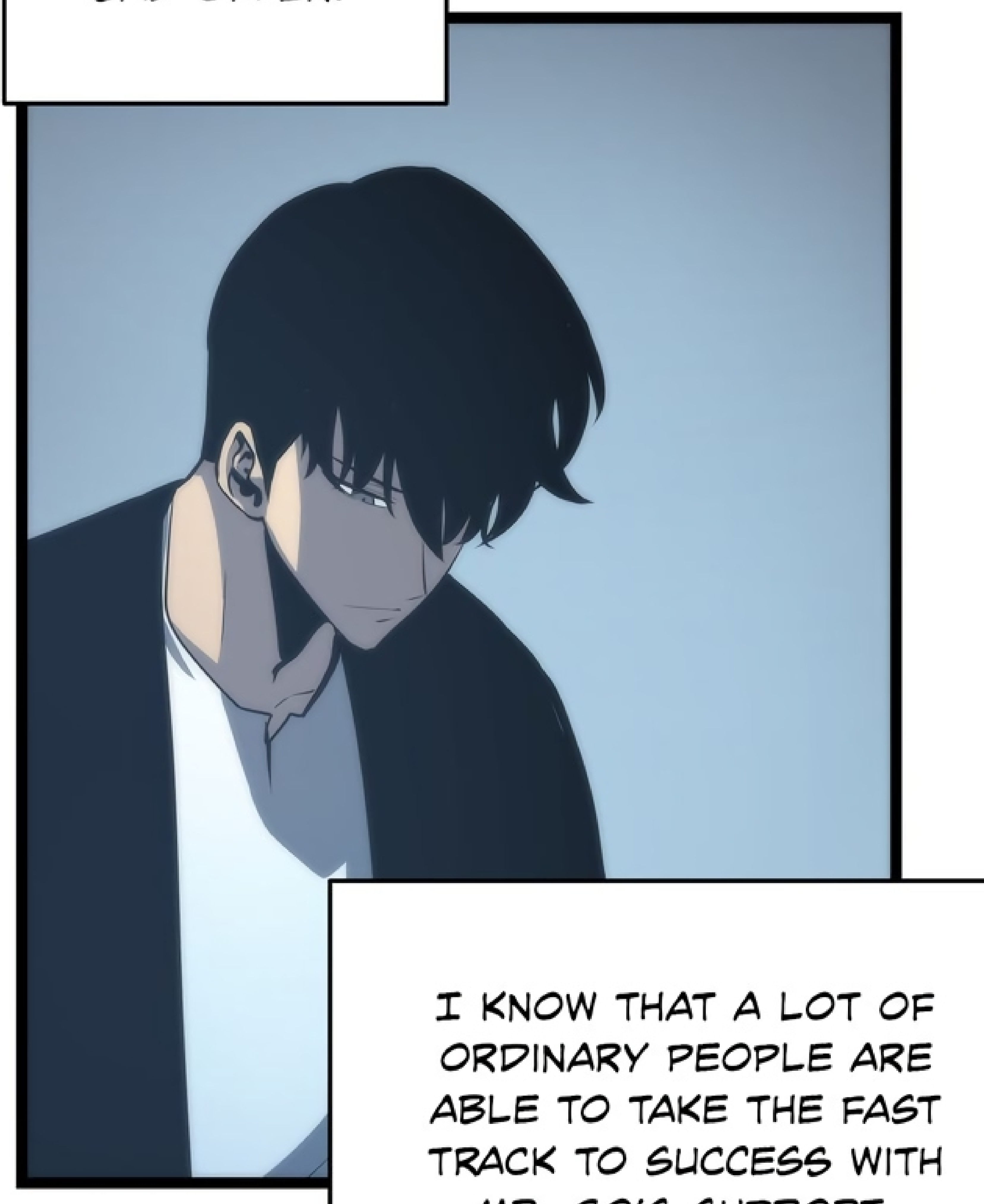
CURRENTLY, THE FIVE GUILDS HAVE ACHIEVED A CAREFUL BALANCE OF POWER.
HUNTERS
FAME
WHITE TIGER
FIEND
KNIGHTS
IF YOU JOIN ONE, HOWEVER, THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER WILL BECOME DISPROPORTIONATE AND CAUSE A HUGE SHIFT IN THE PLAYING FIELD.


HUNTERS CAN'T BE CONTROLLED USING GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY


ALONE, AS THEY CAN'T BE FORCED TO ABIDE BY THE LAW.
THAT'S WHERE THE ASSOCIATION COMES IN.
MAGIC BEASTS AREN'T THE ONLY MONSTERS IN THIS WORLD.
HUNTERS ARE EQUALLY MONSTROUS.


WHAT IS YOUR DECISION, MR. SUNG?
...

IT'S NOT A BAD OFFER.

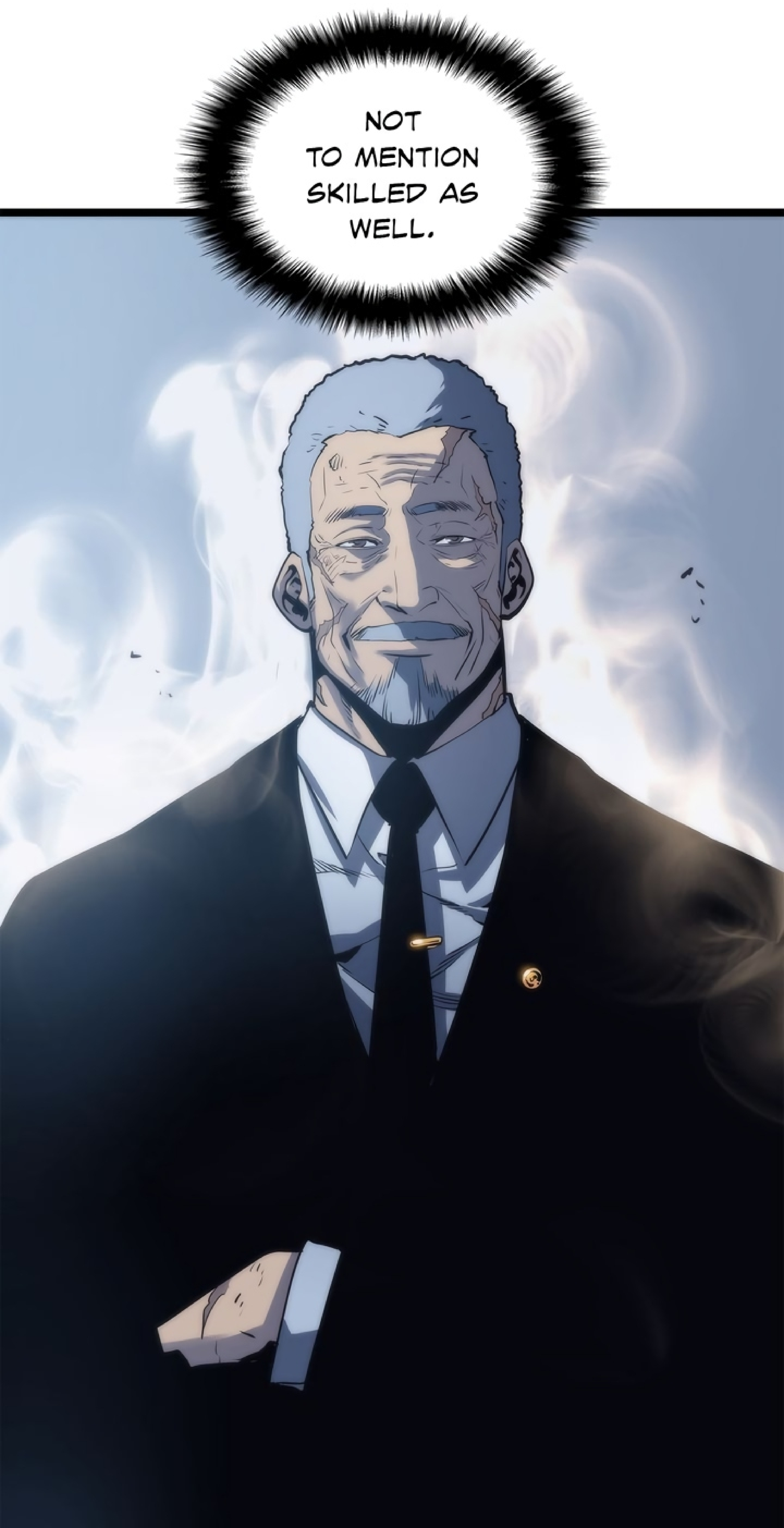


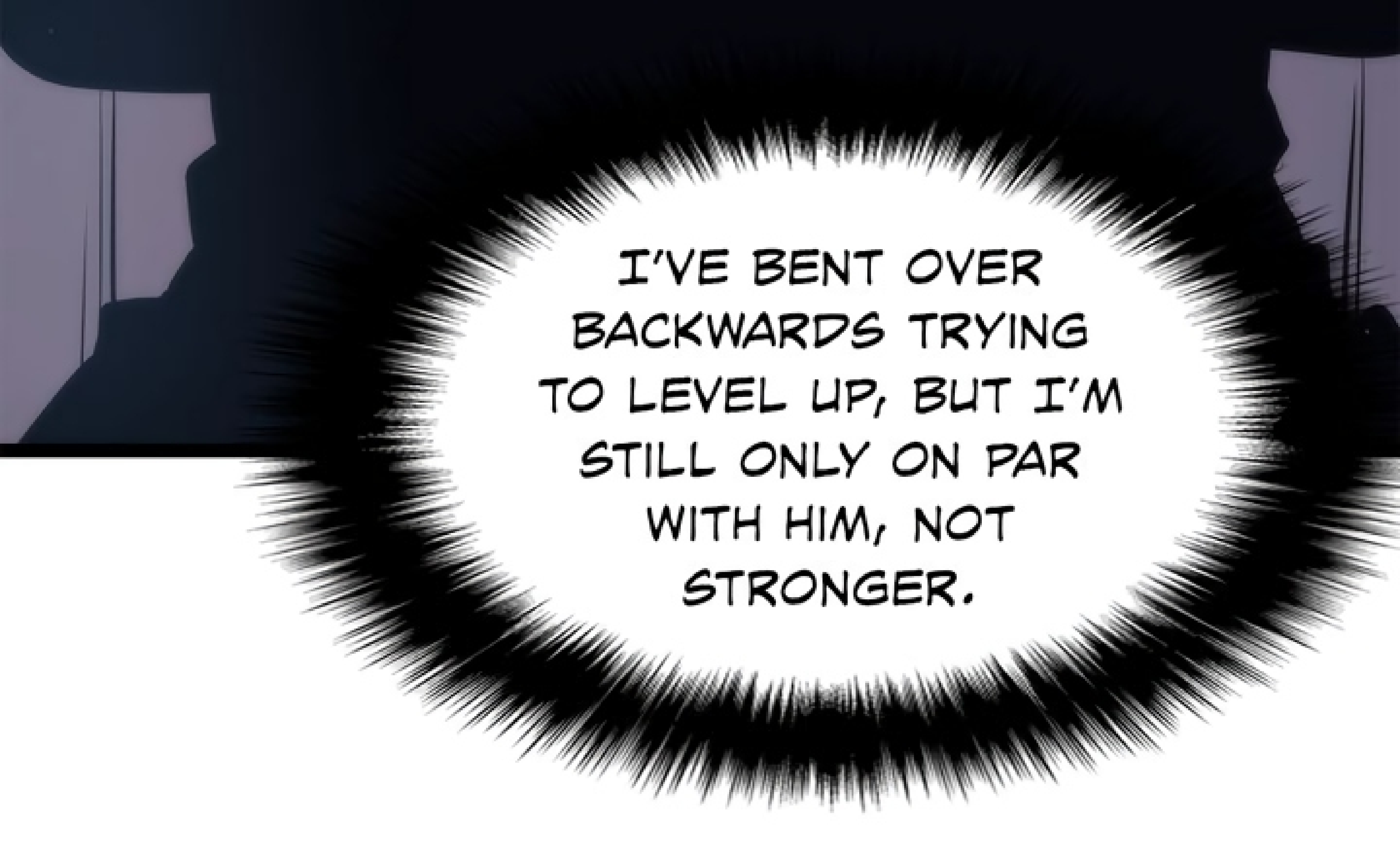
I KNOW THAT A LOT OF ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO TAKE THE FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS WITH MR. GO'S SUPPORT.

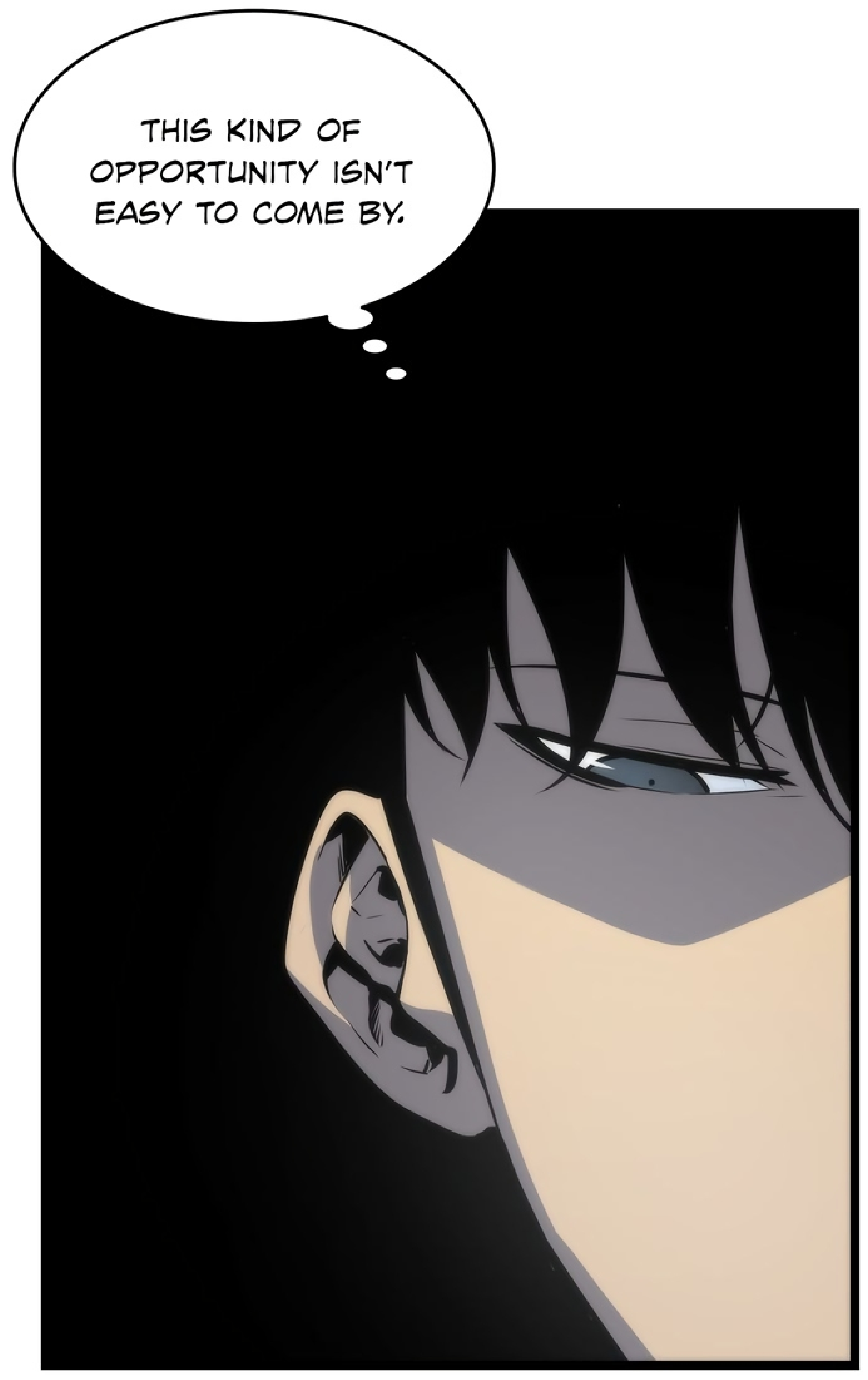
HE HAS INFLUENCE OVER NOT ONLY THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION,

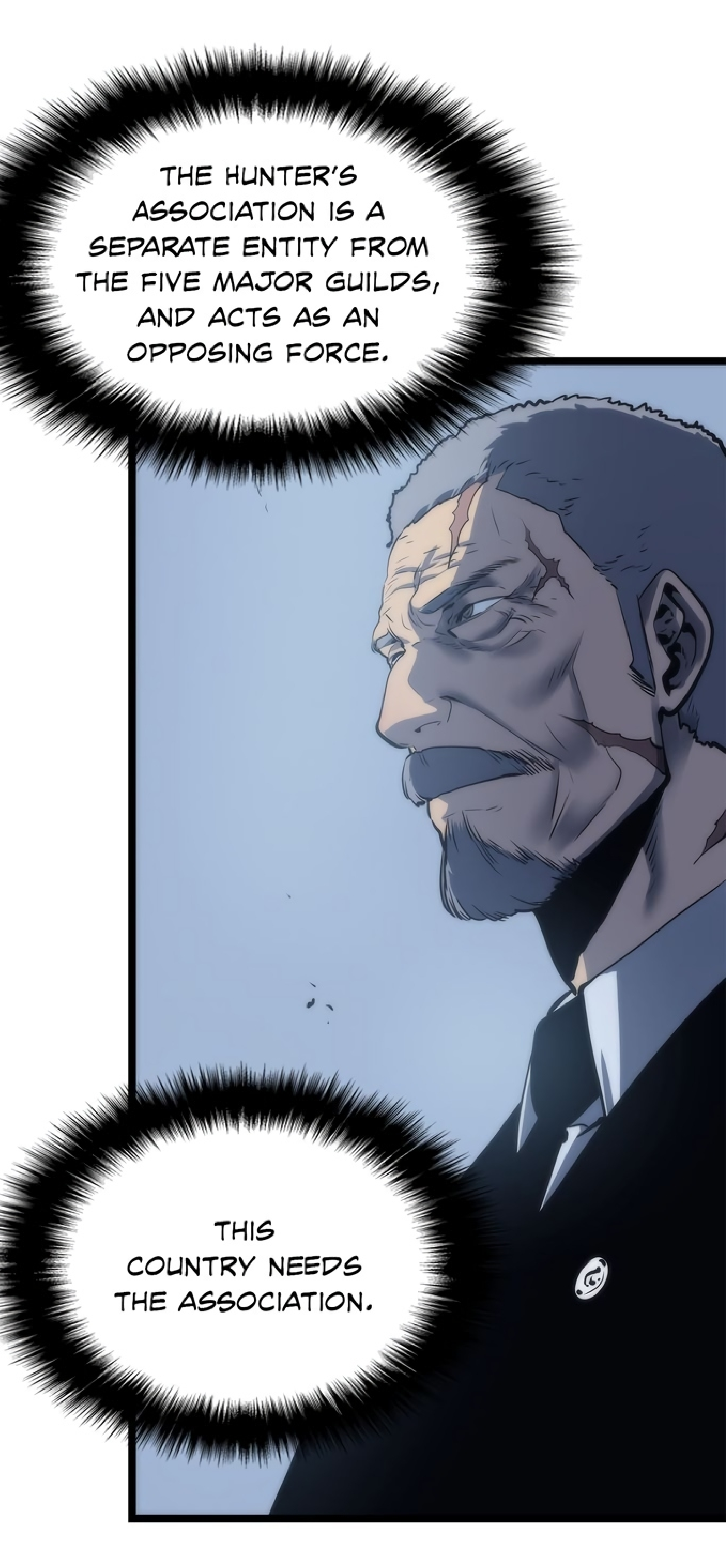
BUT ALSO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, GOVERNMENT, AND THE PRESS.

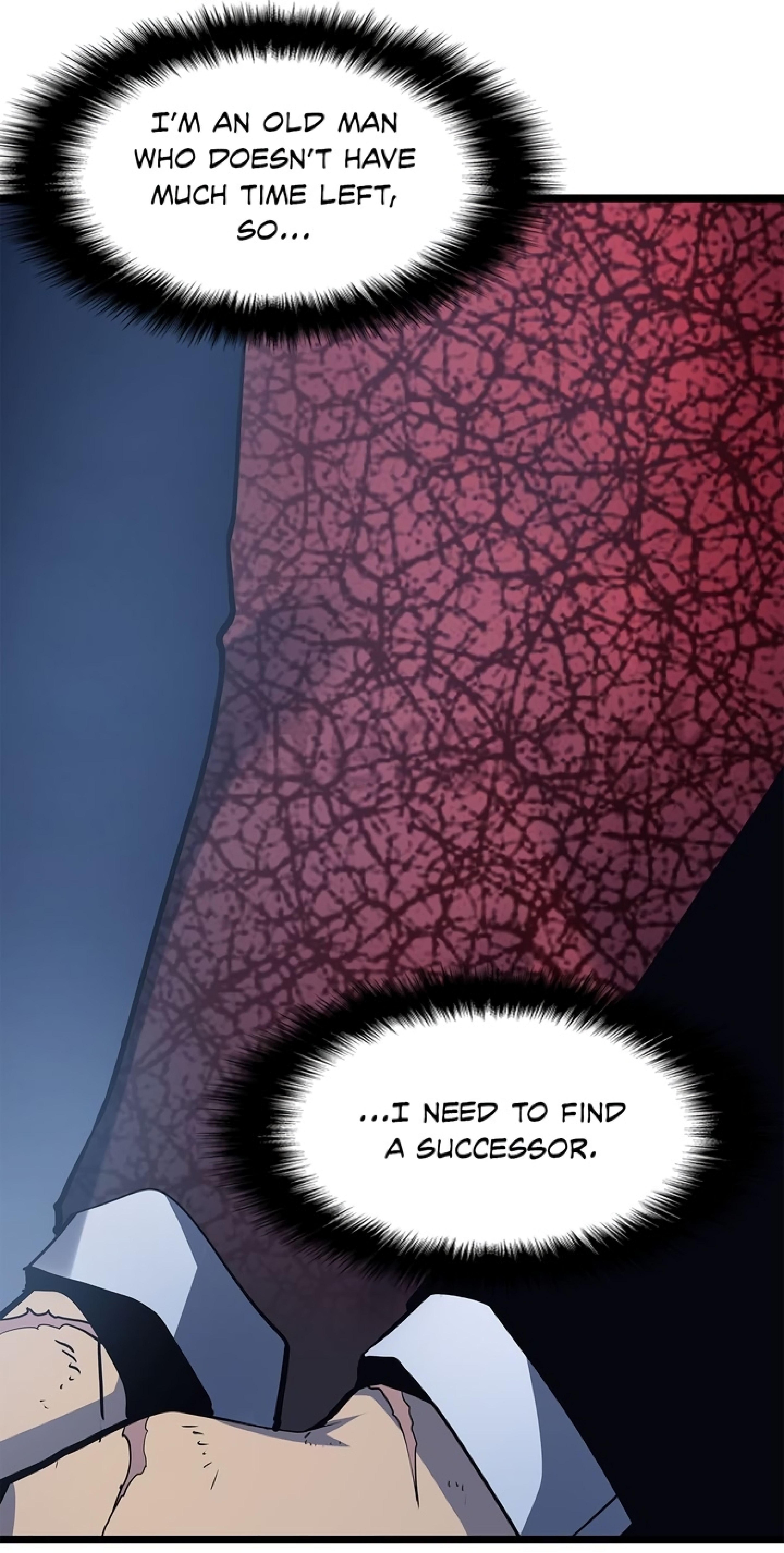
HE'S A REMARKABLE MAN.


NOT TO MENTION SKILLED AS WELL.

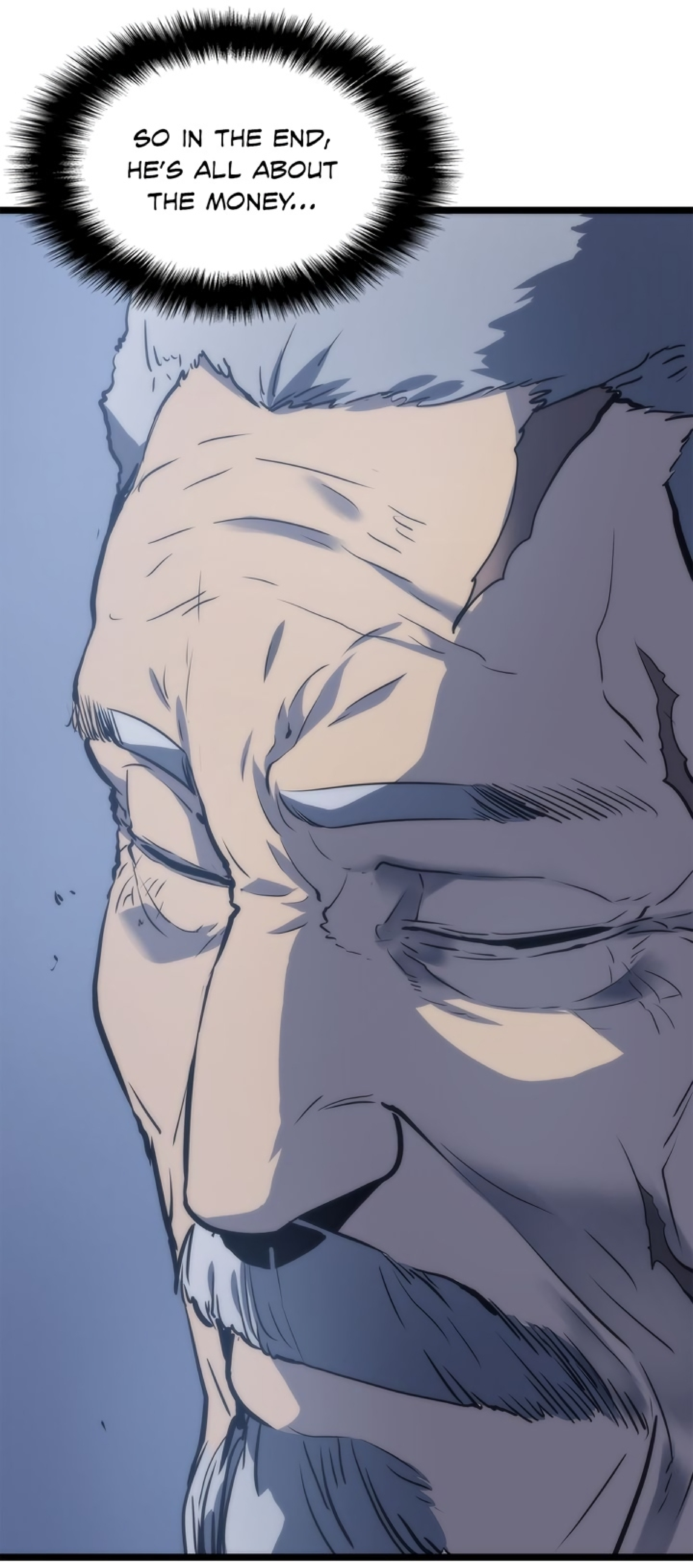

I'VE BENT OVER BACKWARDS TRYING TO LEVEL UP, BUT I'M STILL ONLY ON PAR WITH HIM, NOT STRONGER.

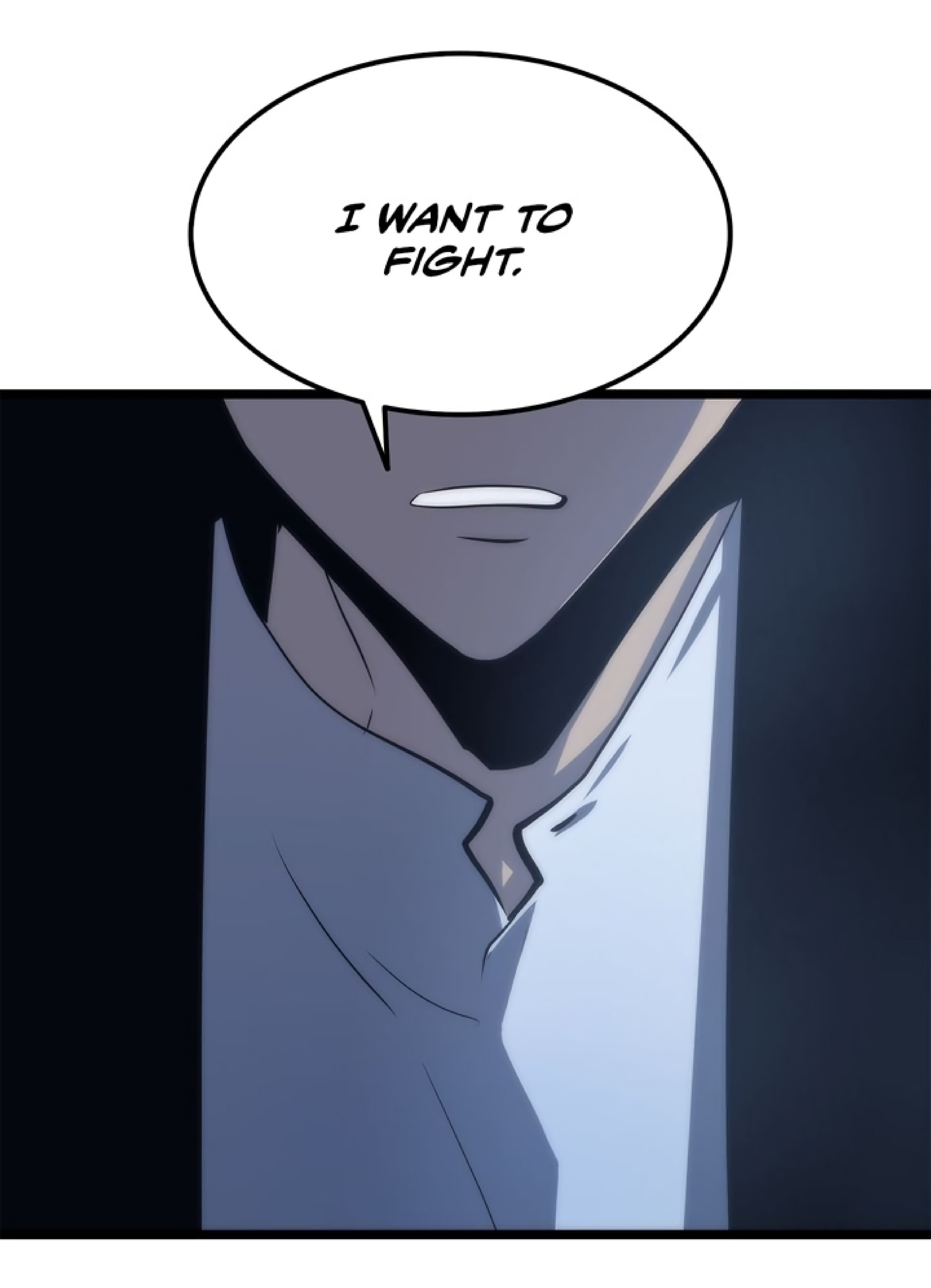

THIS KIND OF OPPORTUNITY ISN'T EASY TO COME BY.

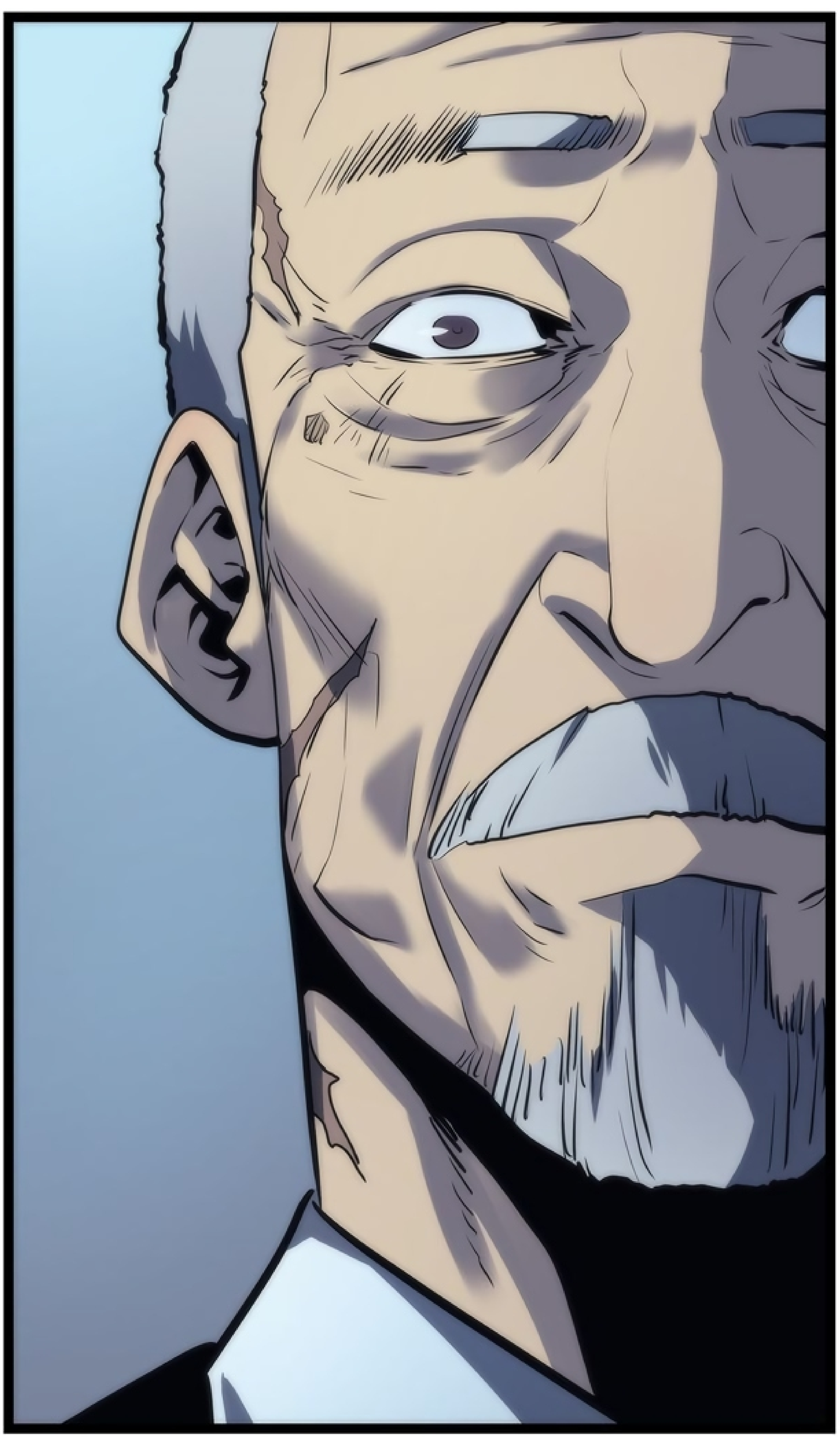

THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION IS A SEPARATE ENTITY FROM THE FIVE MAJOR GUILDS, AND ACTS AS AN OPPOSING FORCE.
THIS COUNTRY NEEDS THE ASSOCIATION.

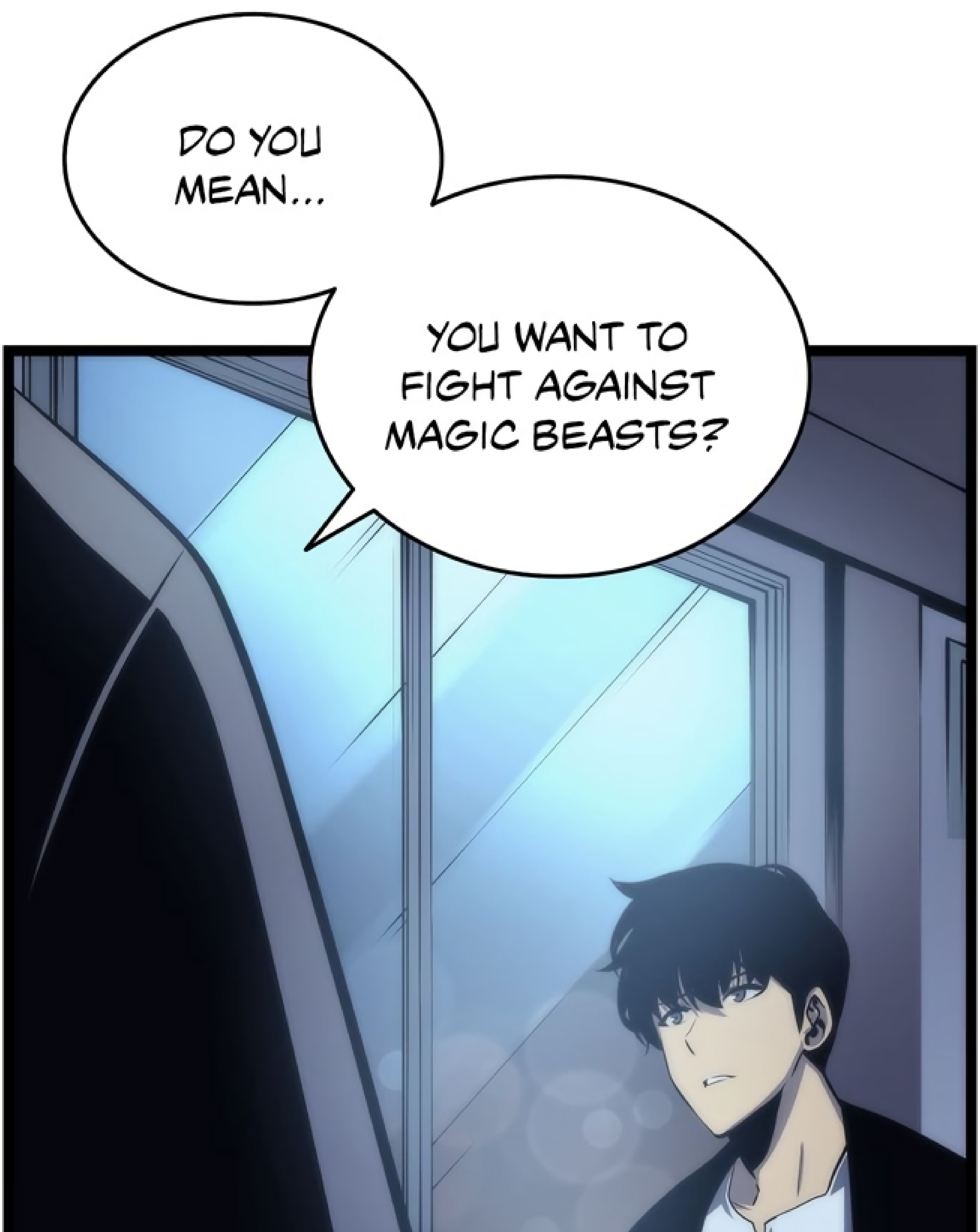

I'M AN OLD MAN WHO DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, SO...
...I NEED TO FIND A SUCCESSOR.

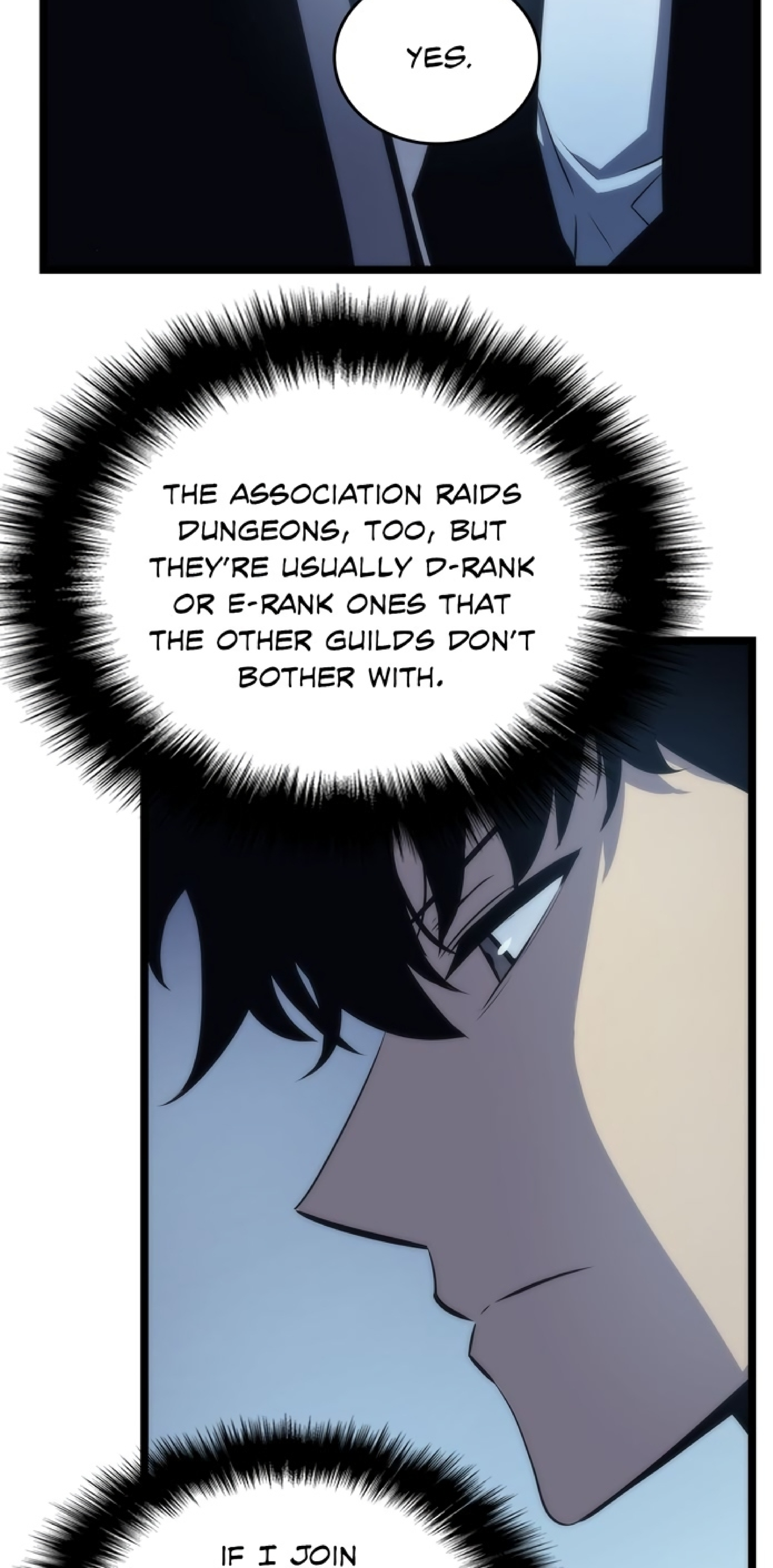
I'M SORRY.


SO IN THE END, HE'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY...

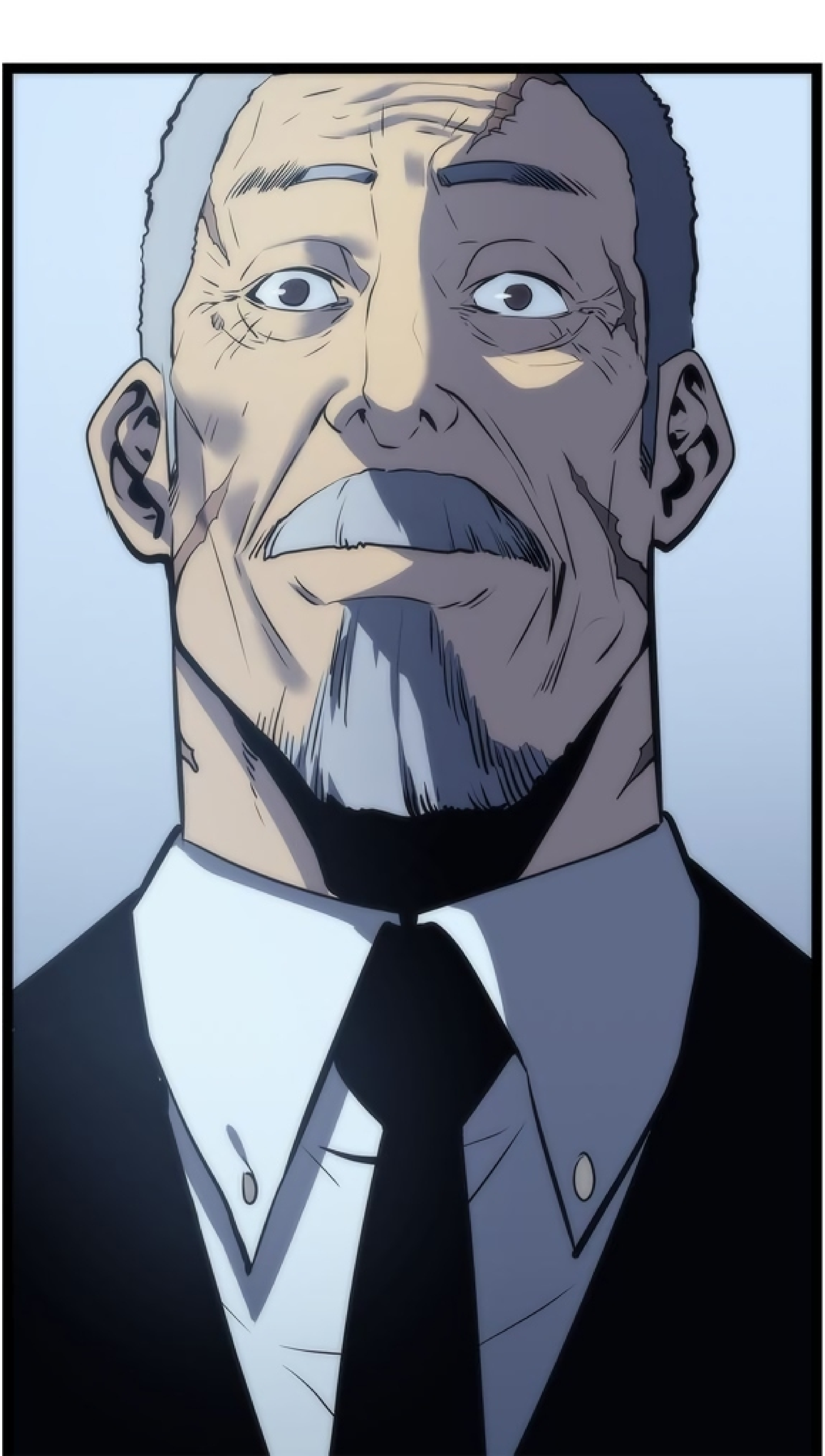

I WANT TO FIGHT.

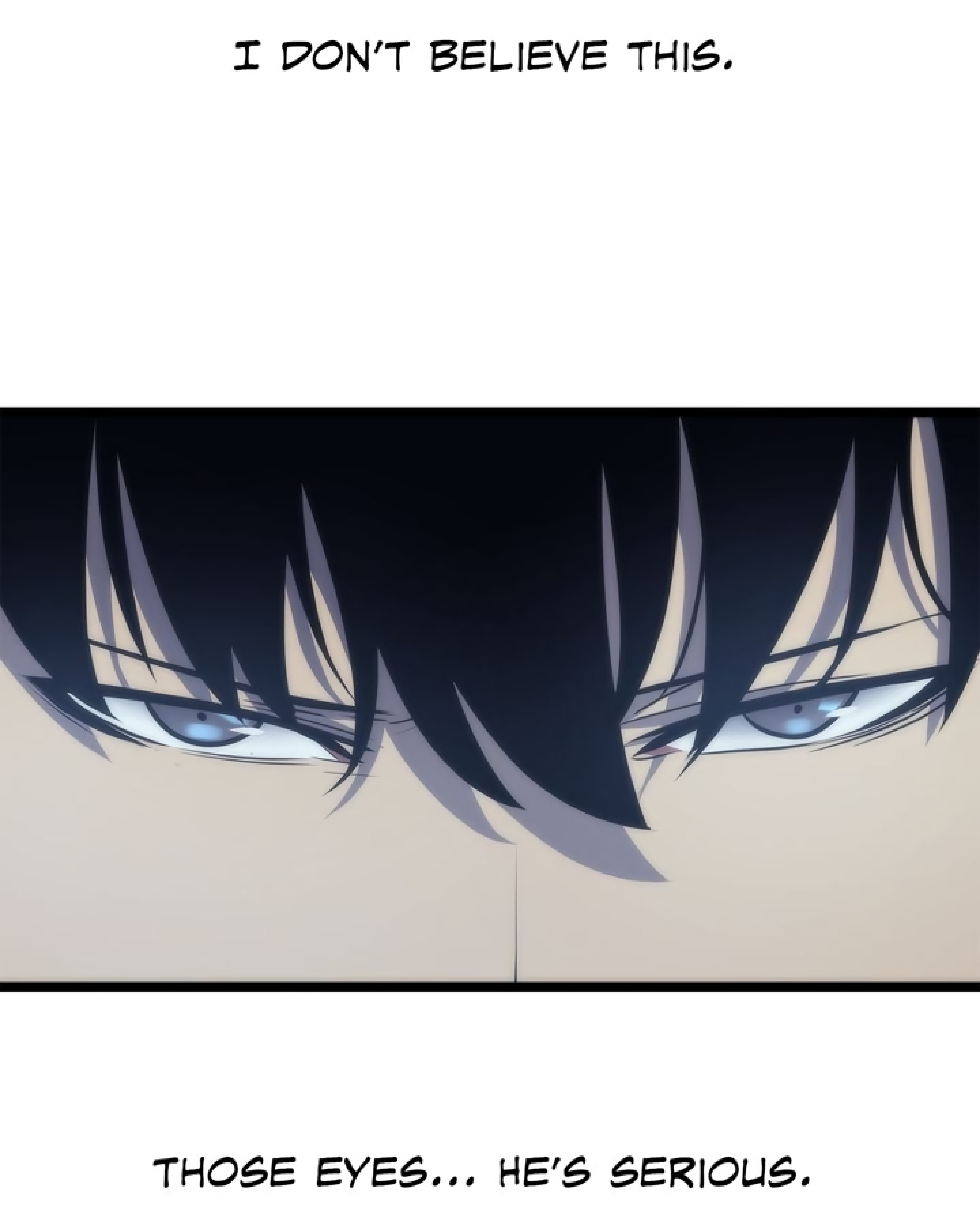


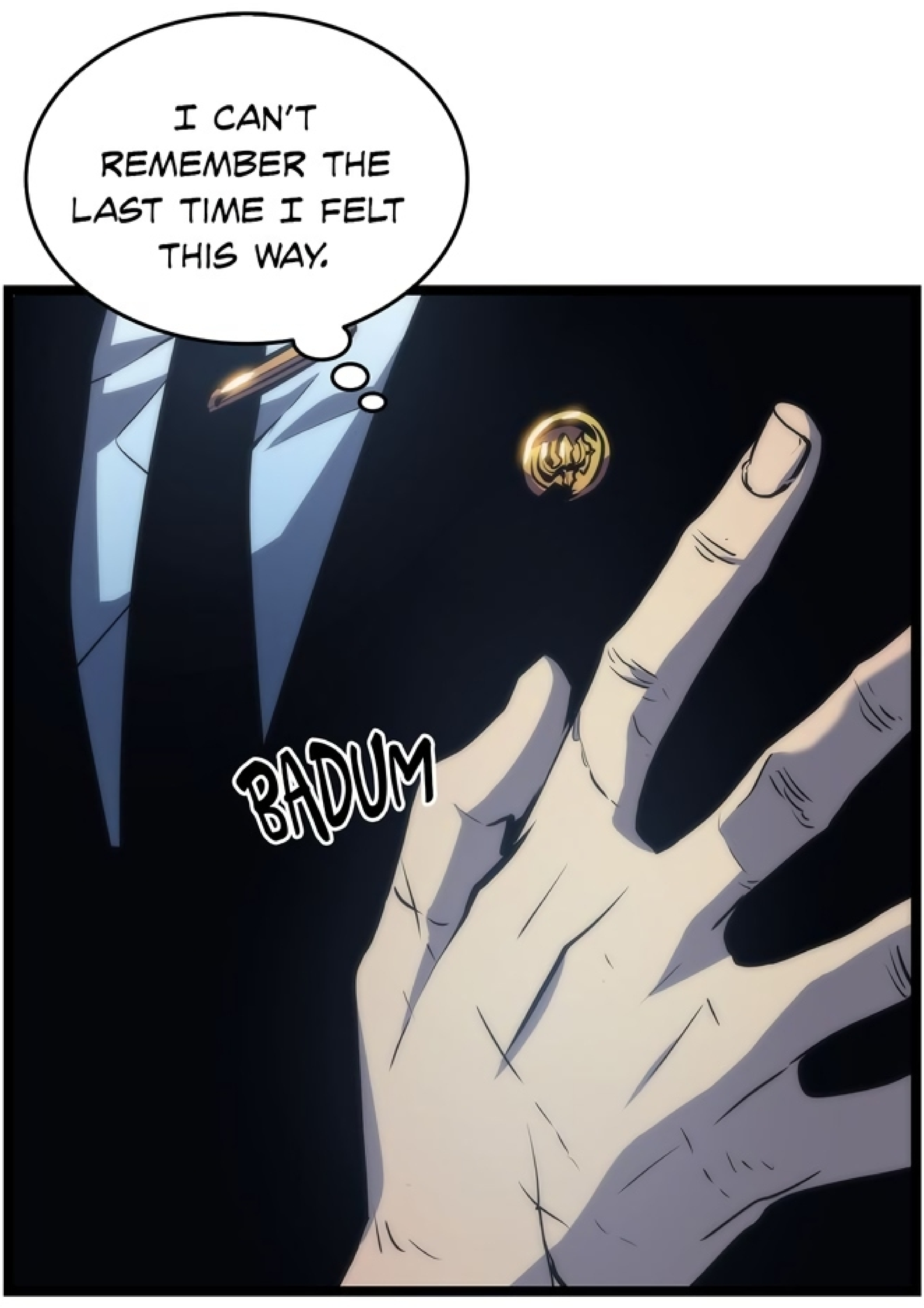

DO YOU MEAN…
YOU WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST MAGIC BEASTS?
YES.

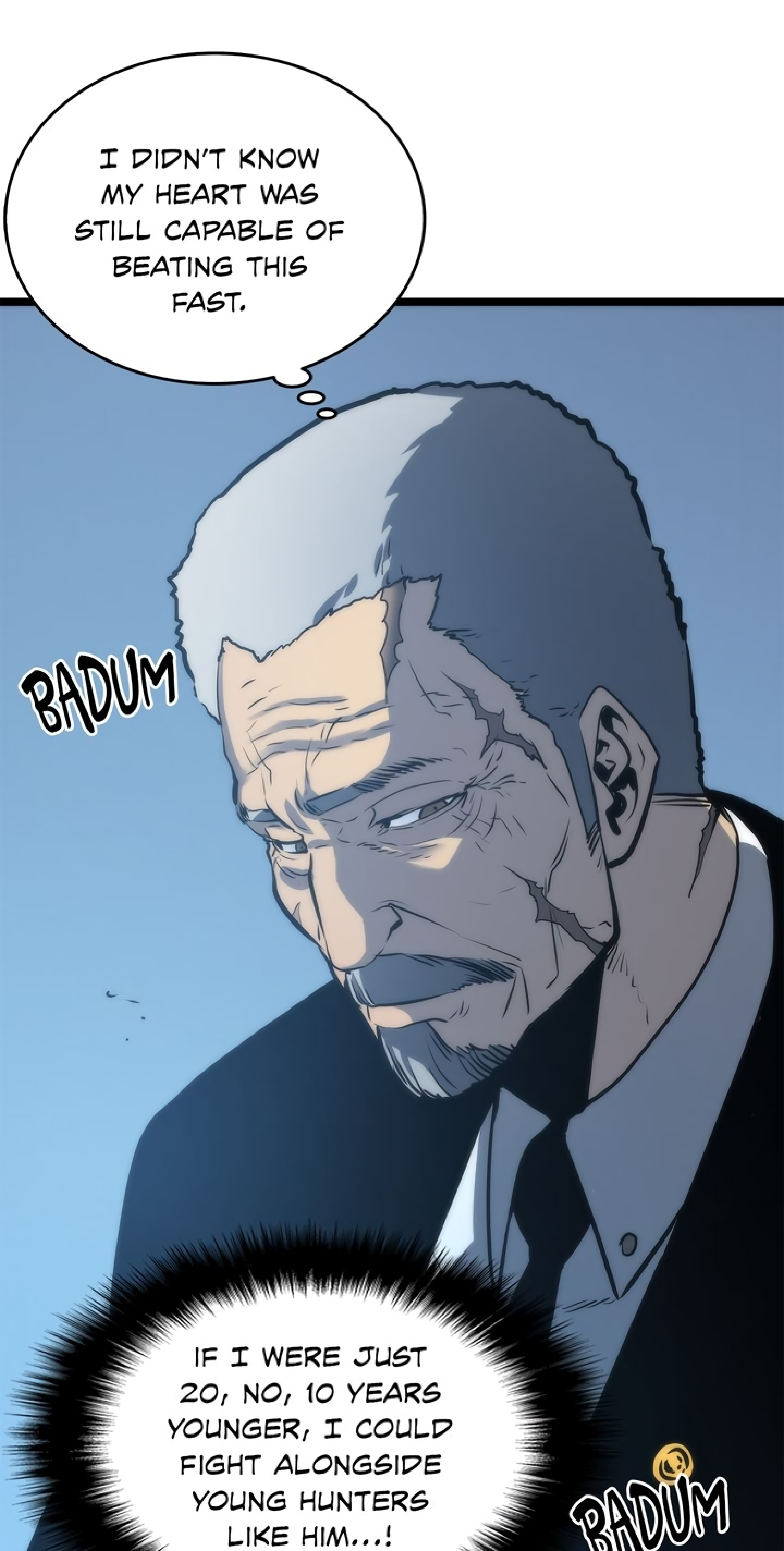

THE ASSOCIATION RAIDS DUNGEONS, TOO, BUT THEY'RE USUALLY D-RANK OR E-RANK ONES THAT THE OTHER GUILDS DON'T BOTHER WITH.
IF I JOIN

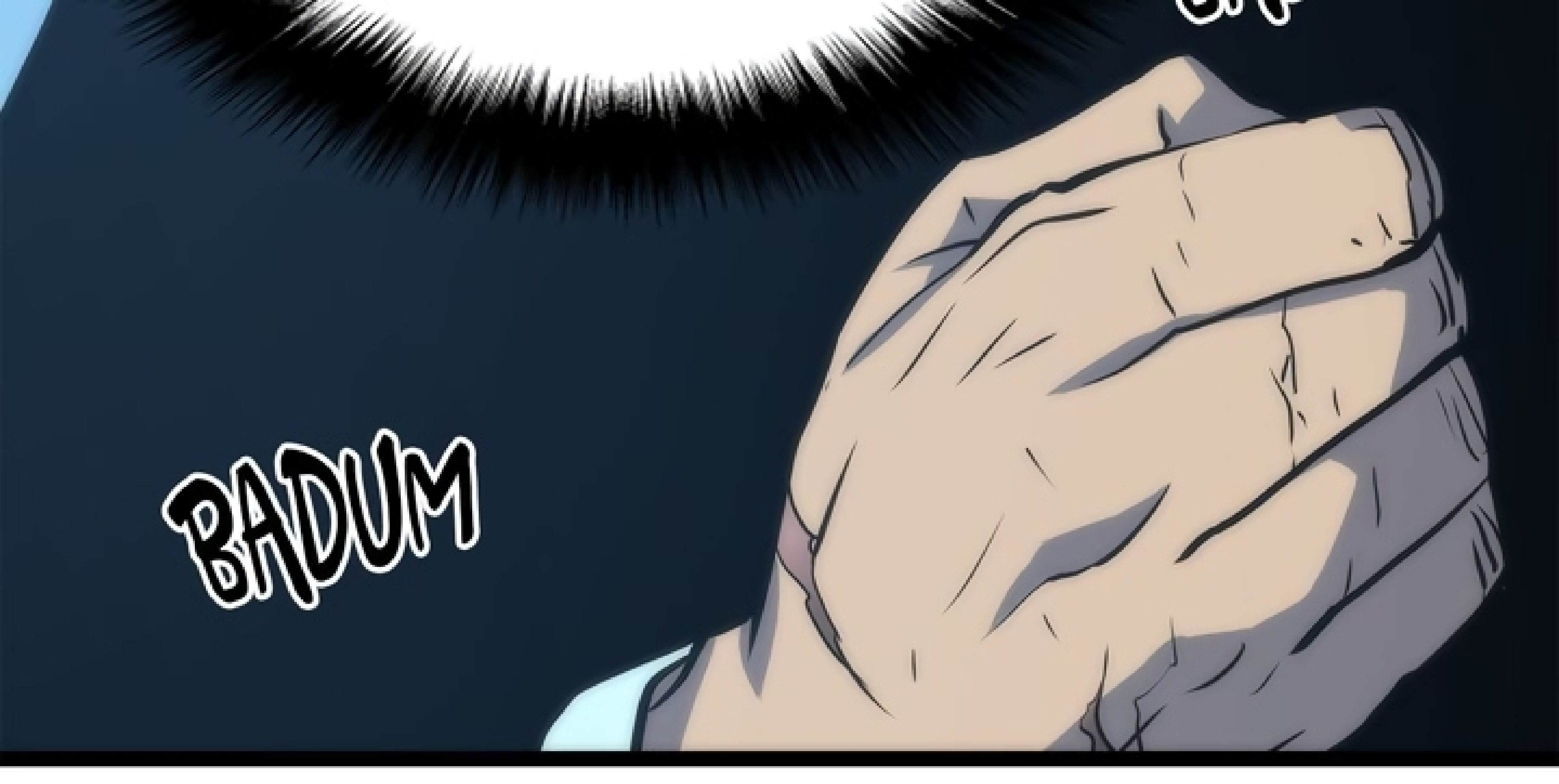
THE ASSOCIATION, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LEVEL UP ANYMORE.
AS LONG AS I KEEP GOING, I CAN CONTINUE TO GROW AS A HUNTER.
I BELONG IN THE DUNGEONS.

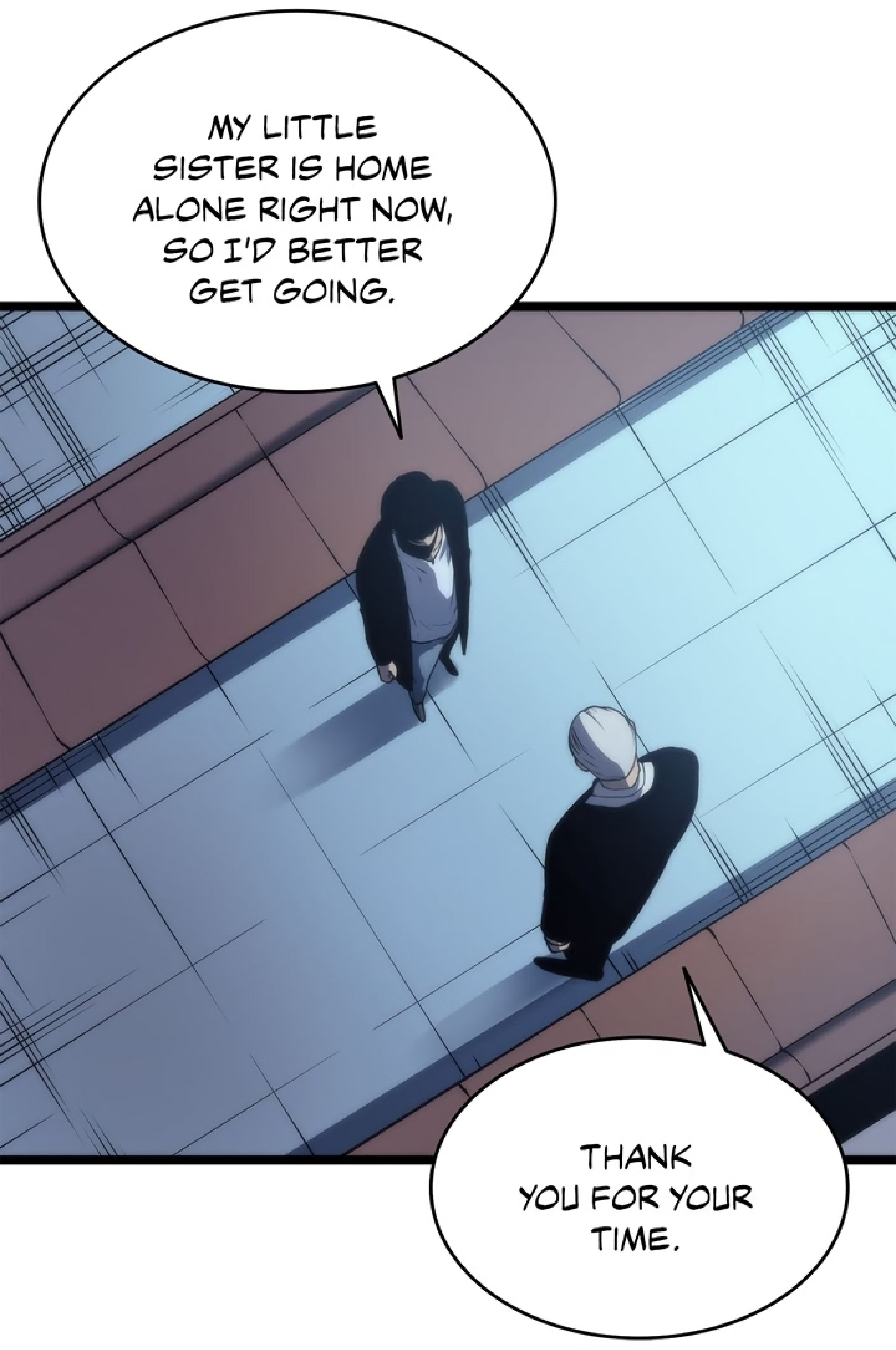


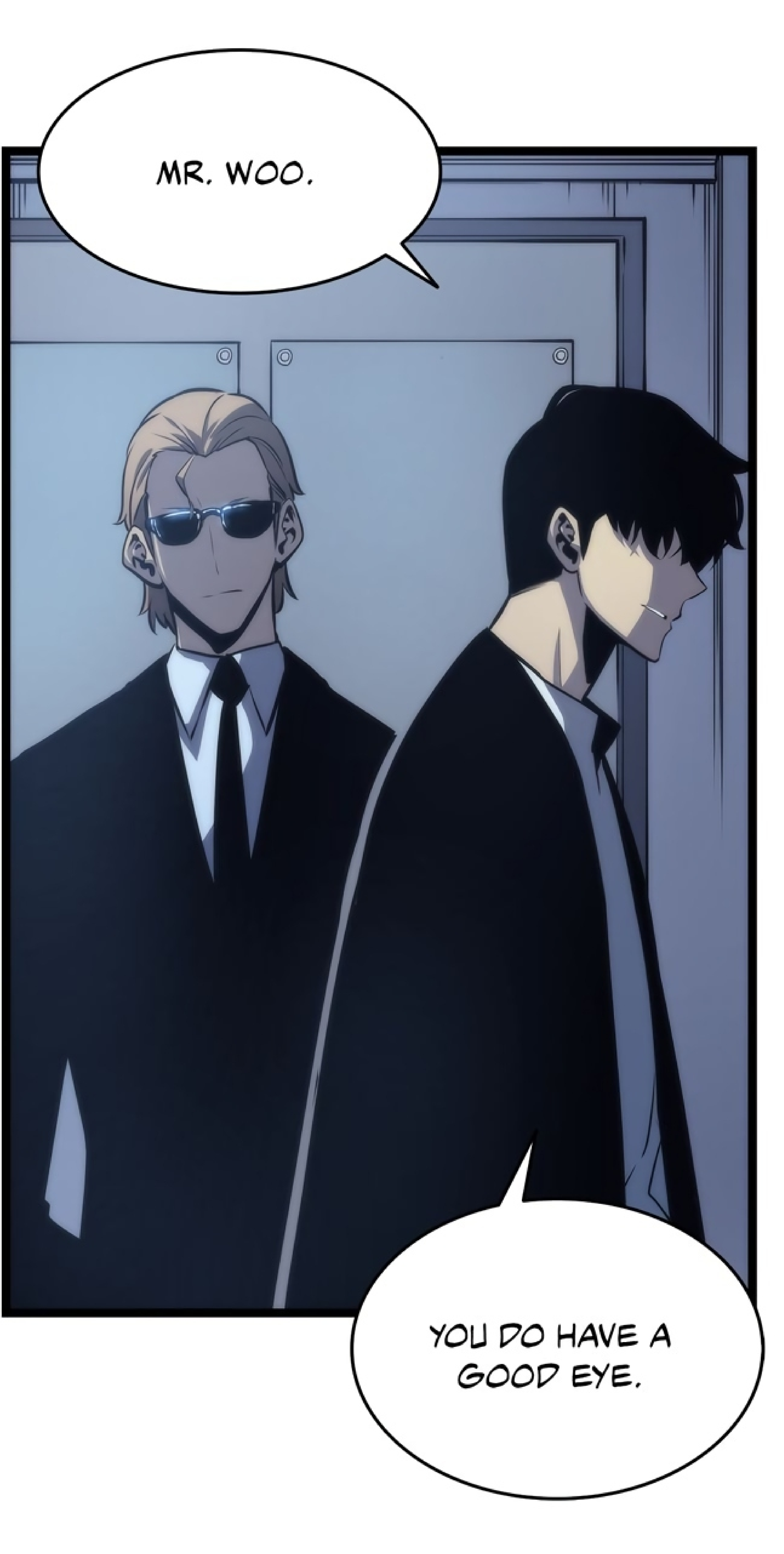

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
THOSE EYES... HE'S SERIOUS.

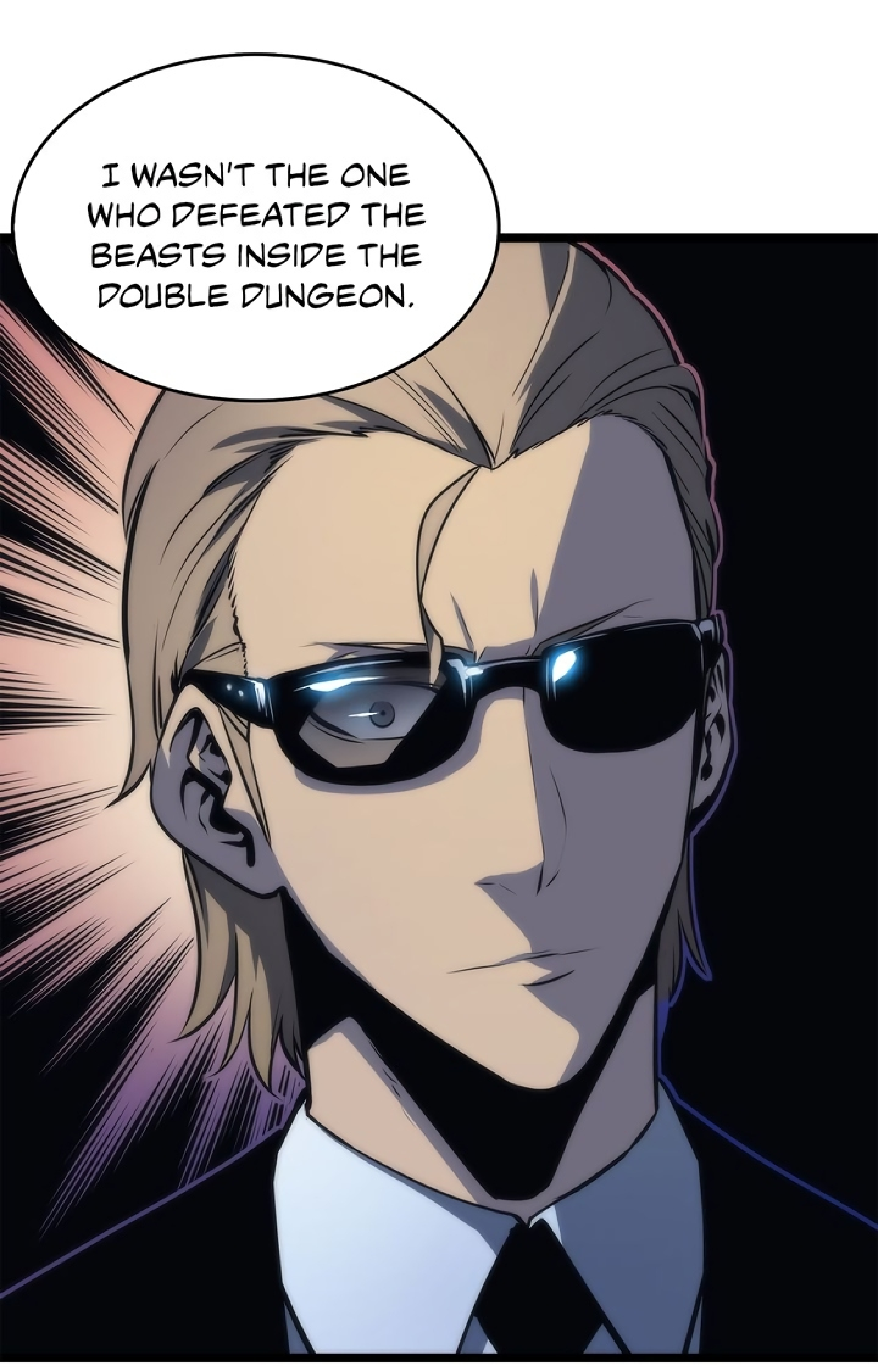

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I FELT THIS WAY.
BADUM

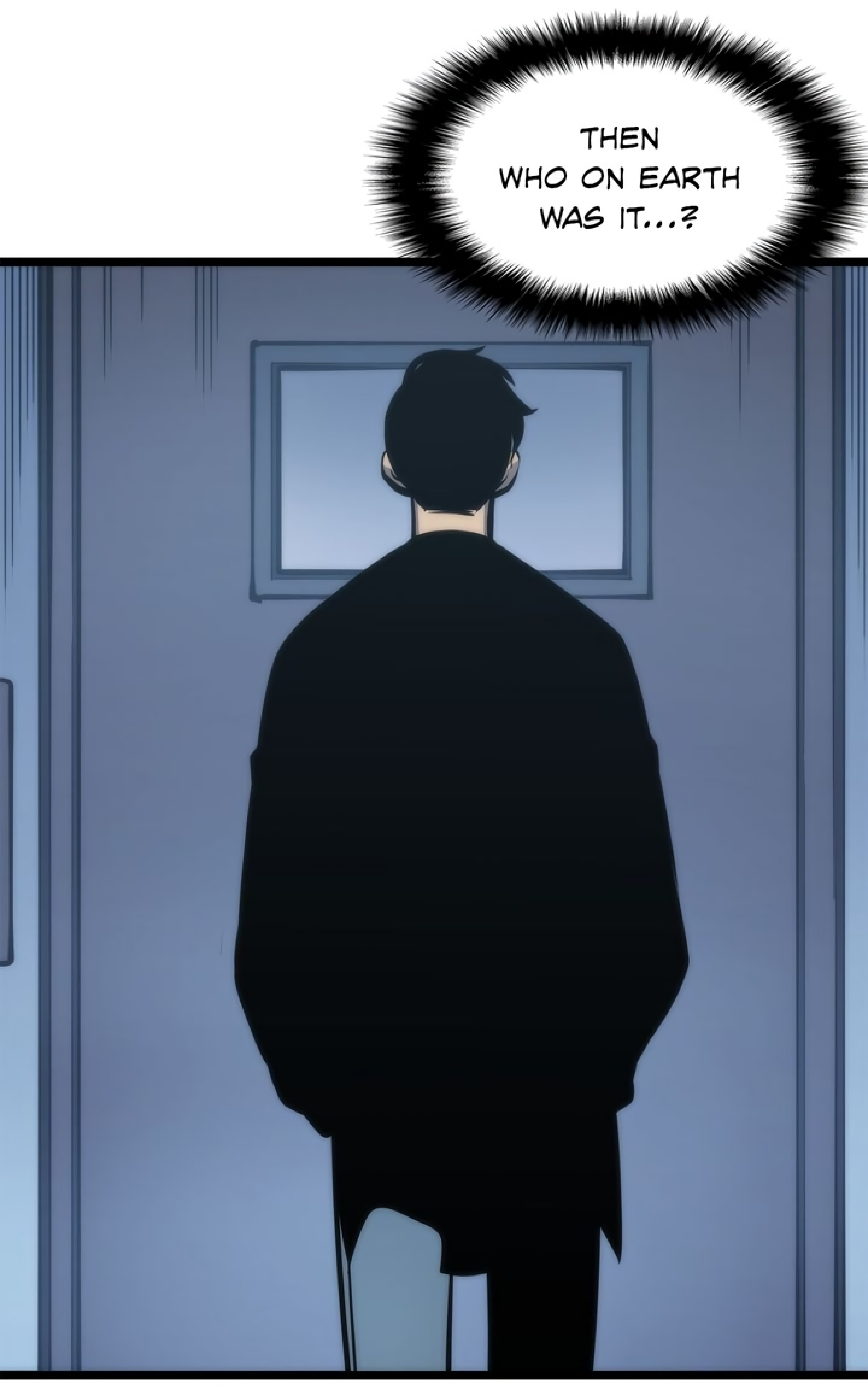

I DIDN'T KNOW MY HEART WAS STILL CAPABLE OF BEATING THIS FAST.
BADUM
IF I WERE JUST 20, NO, 10 YEARS YOUNGER, I COULD FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOUNG HUNTERS LIKE HIM...!
BADUM

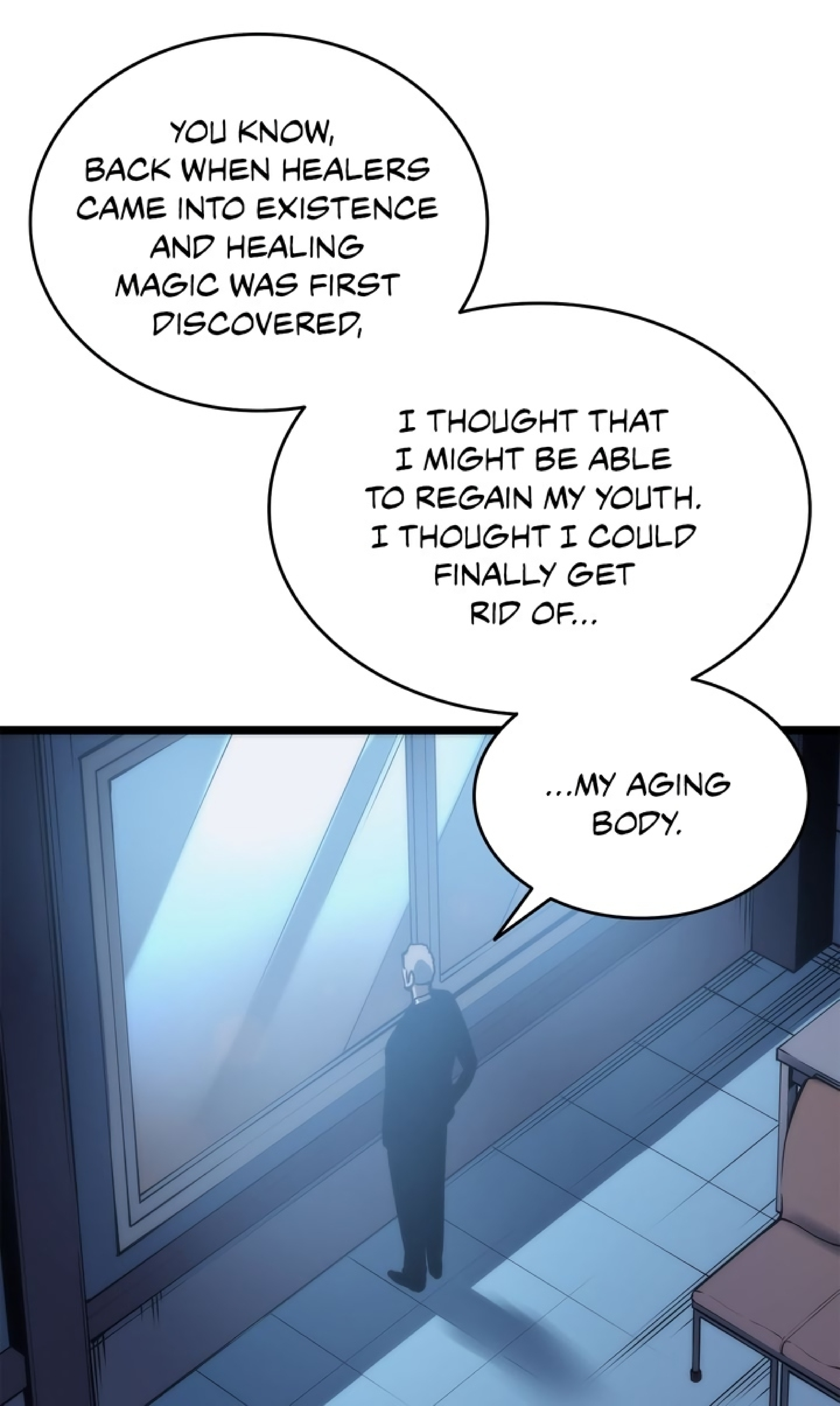

BADUM

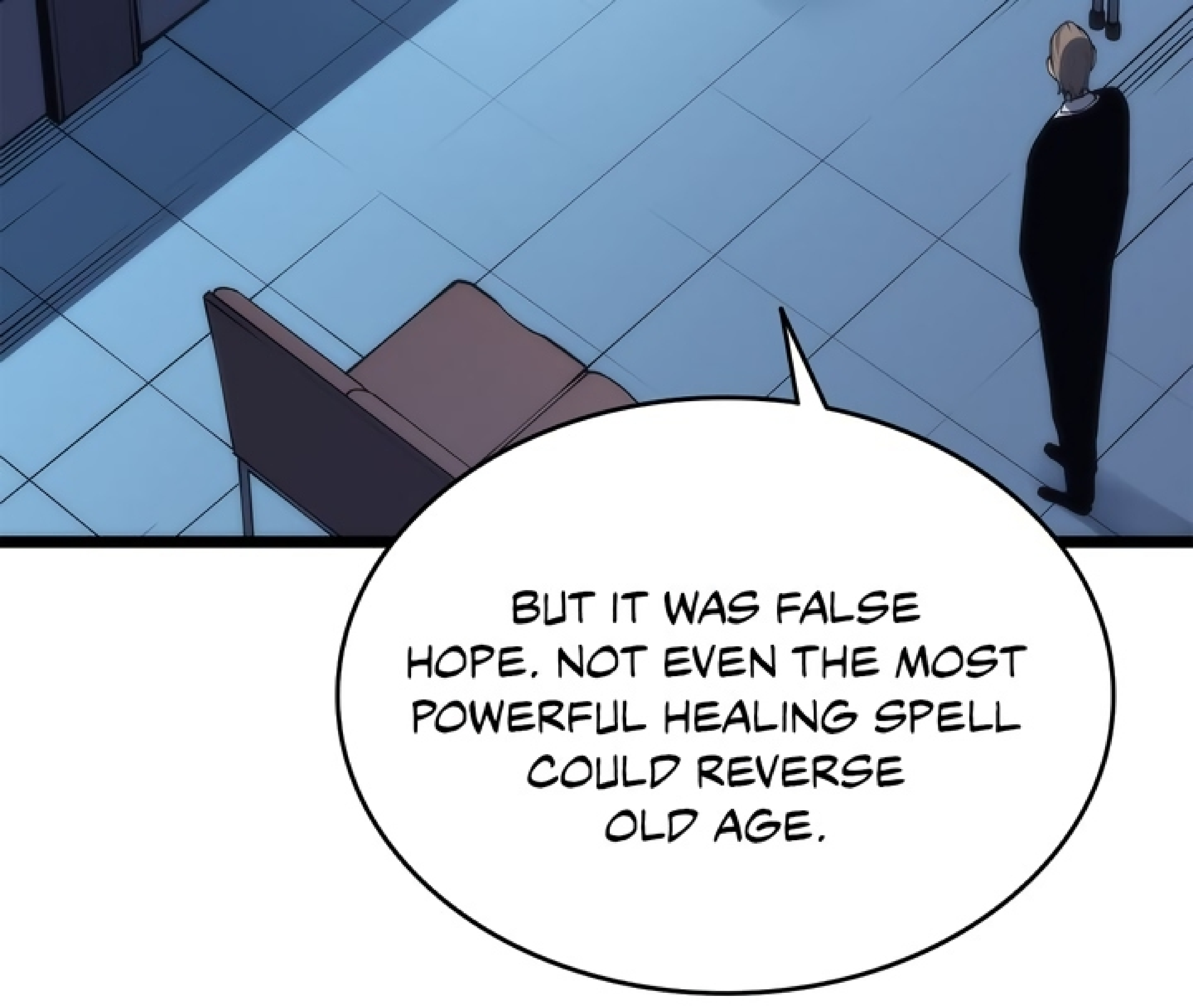

MY LITTLE SISTER IS HOME ALONE RIGHT NOW, SO I'D BETTER GET GOING.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

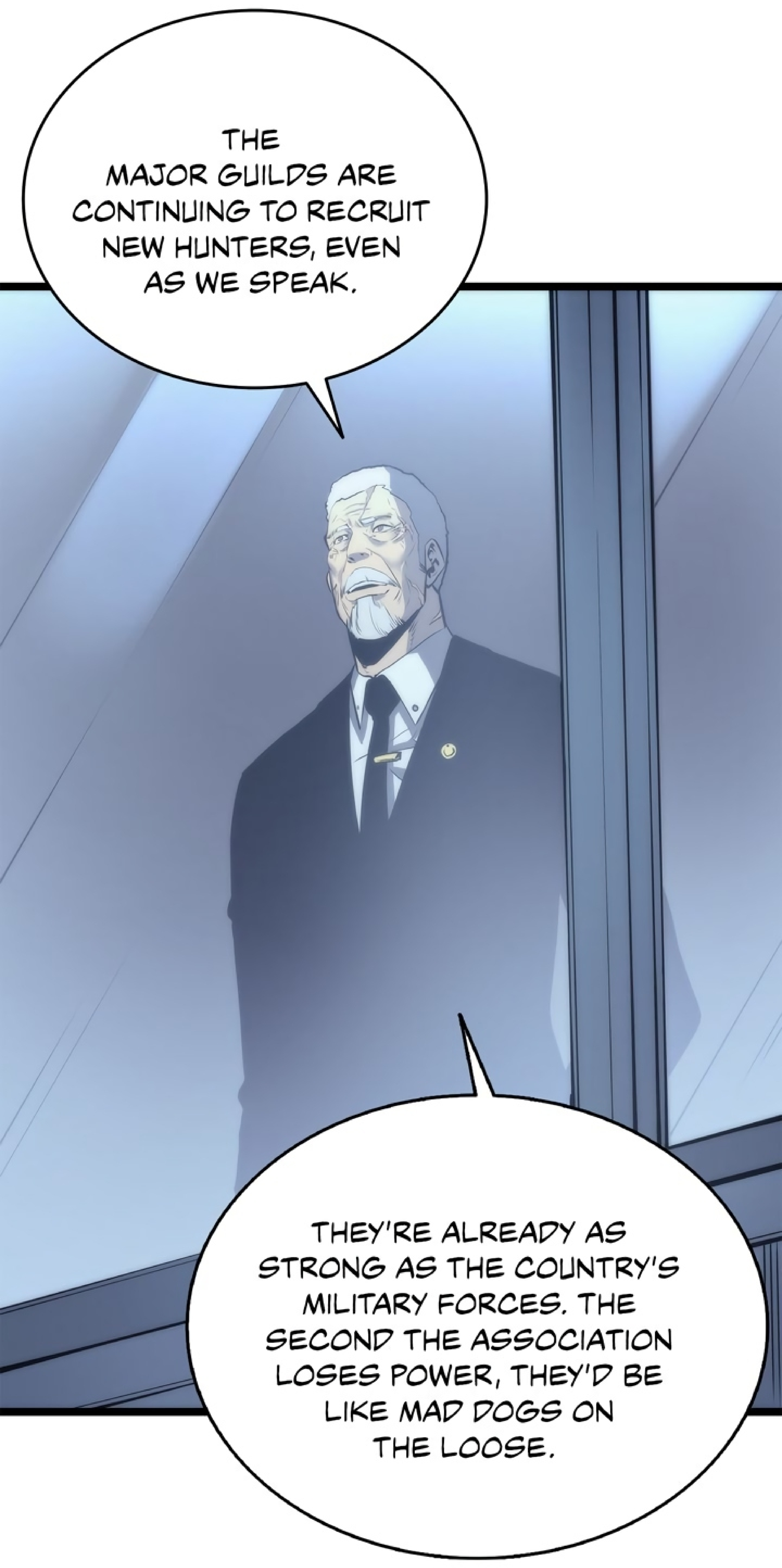

MR. WOO.
YOU DO HAVE A GOOD EYE.

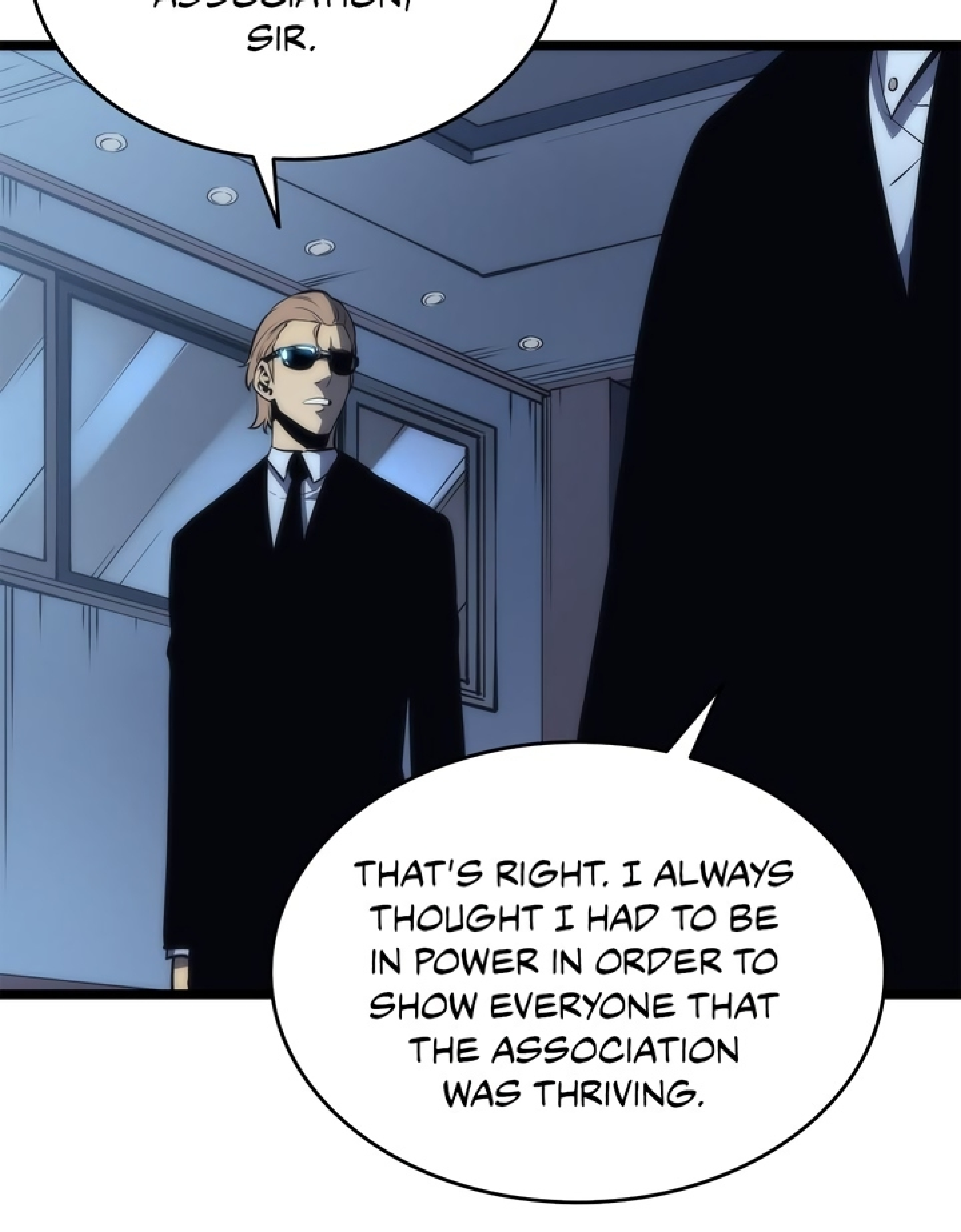

I WASN'T THE ONE WHO DEFEATED THE BEASTS INSIDE THE DOUBLE DUNGEON.

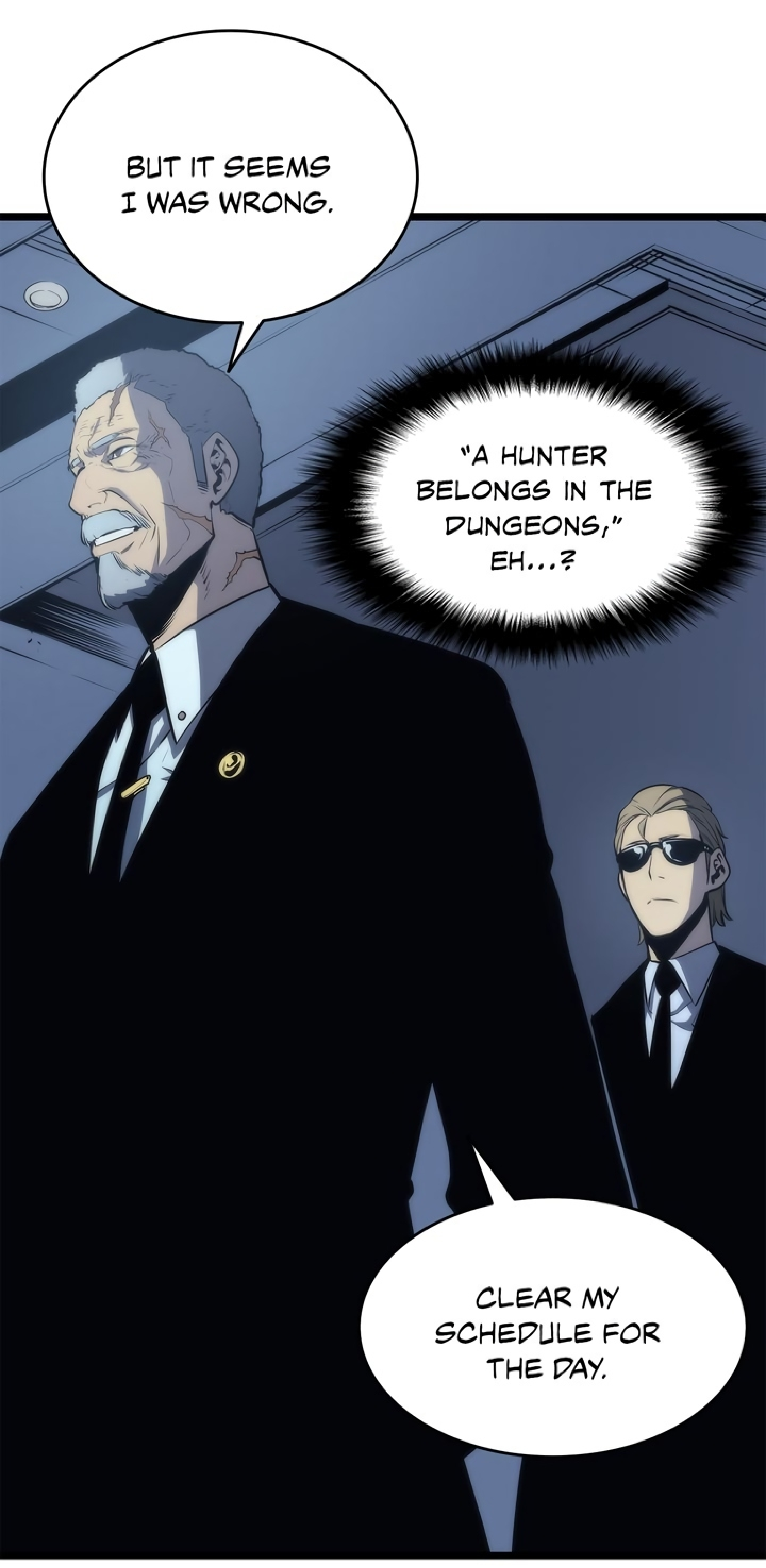

THEN WHO ON EARTH WAS IT...?

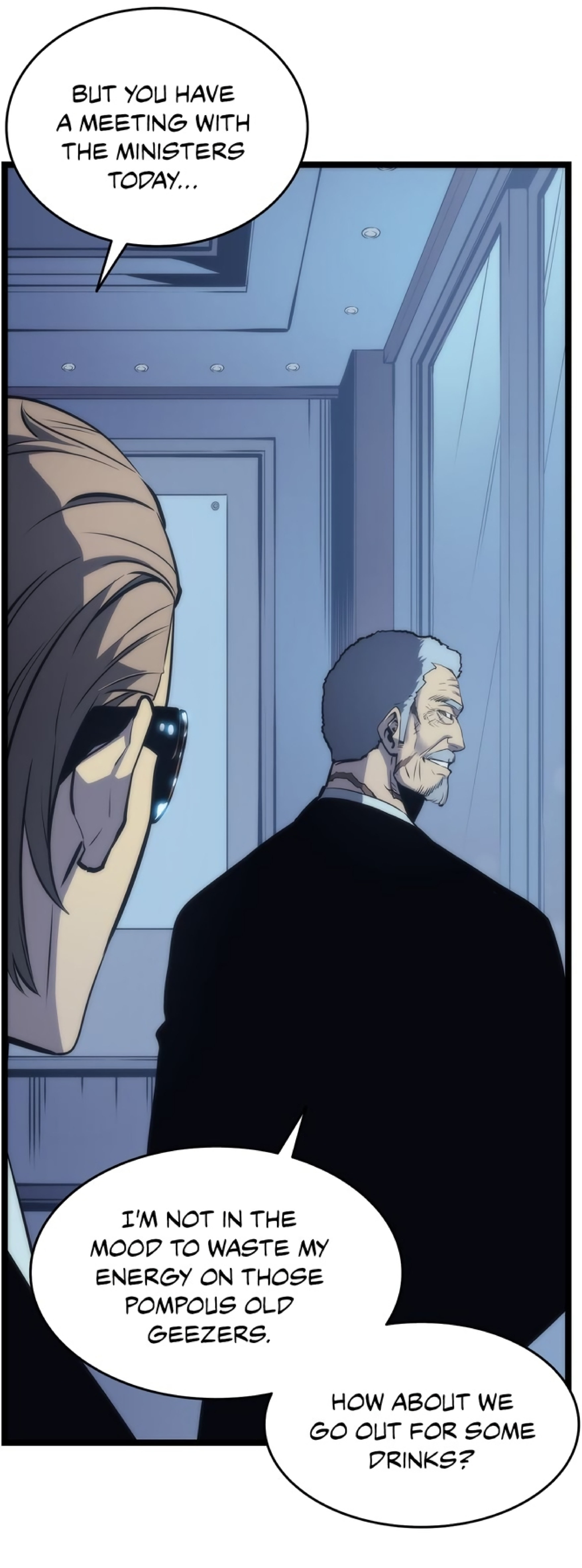

YOU KNOW, BACK WHEN HEALERS CAME INTO EXISTENCE AND HEALING MAGIC WAS FIRST DISCOVERED,
I THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO REGAIN MY YOUTH. I THOUGHT I COULD FINALLY GET RID OF...
...MY AGING BODY.

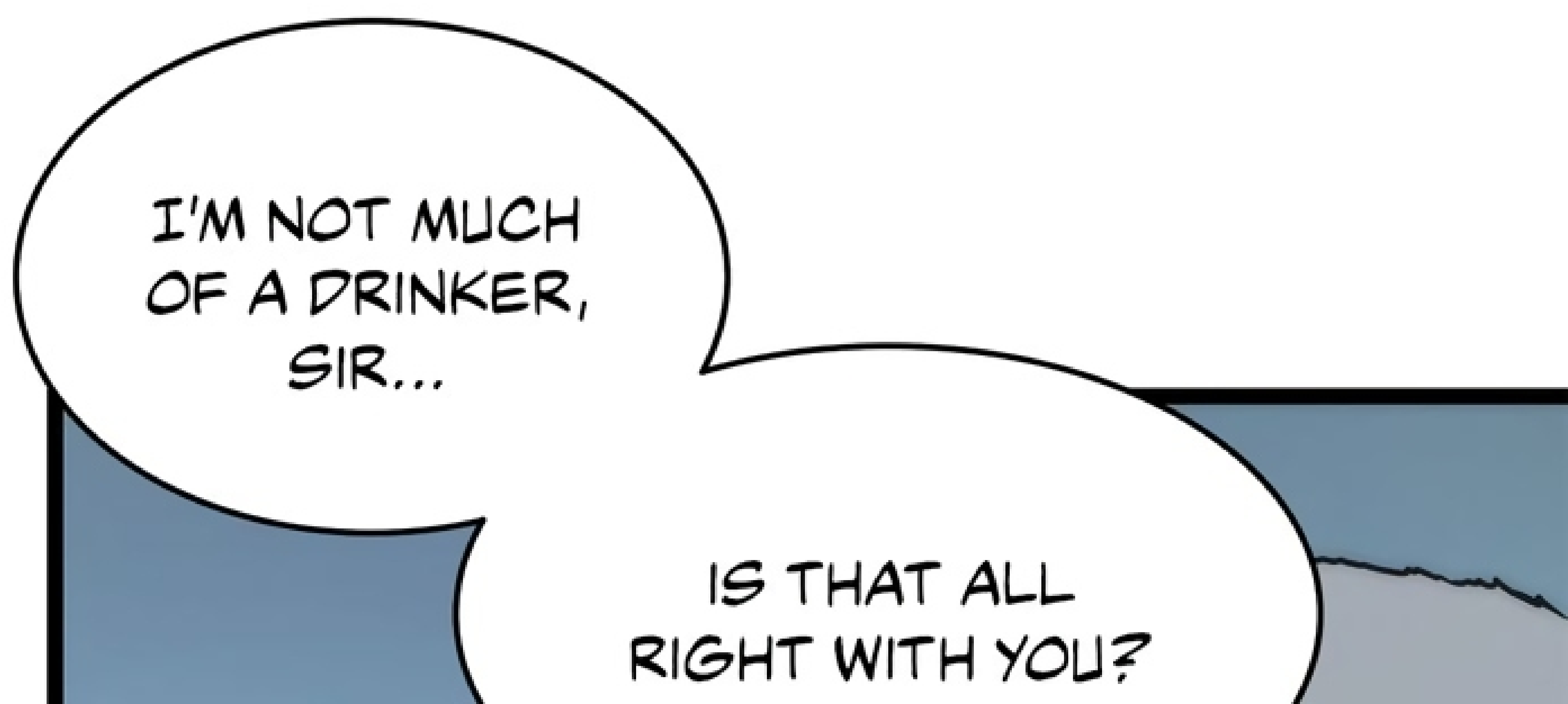

BUT IT WAS FALSE HOPE. NOT EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL HEALING SPELL COULD REVERSE OLD AGE.

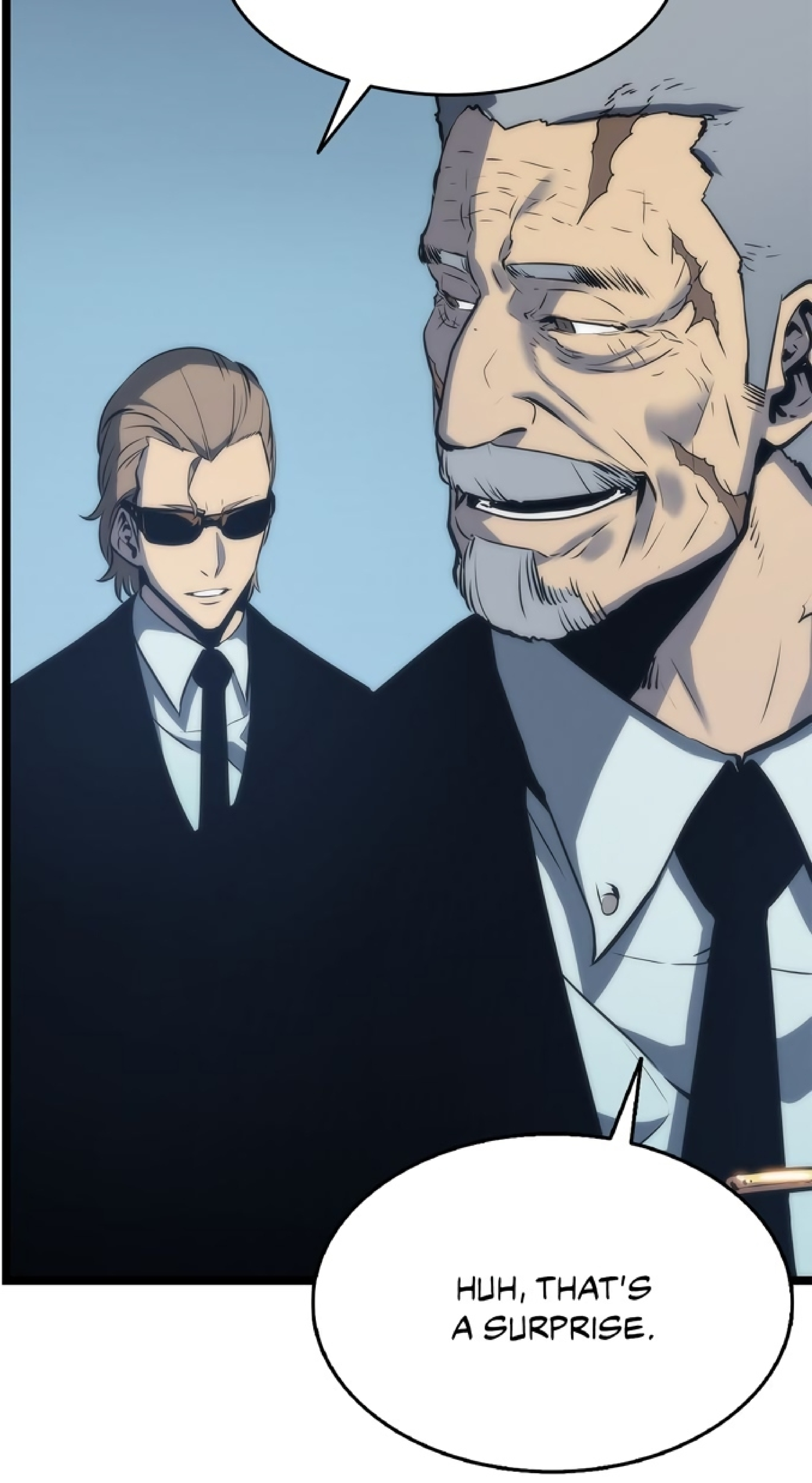

THE MAJOR GUILDS ARE CONTINUING TO RECRUIT NEW HUNTERS, EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
THEY'RE ALREADY AS STRONG AS THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY FORCES. THE SECOND THE ASSOCIATION LOSES POWER, THEY'D BE LIKE MAD DOGS ON THE LOOSE.

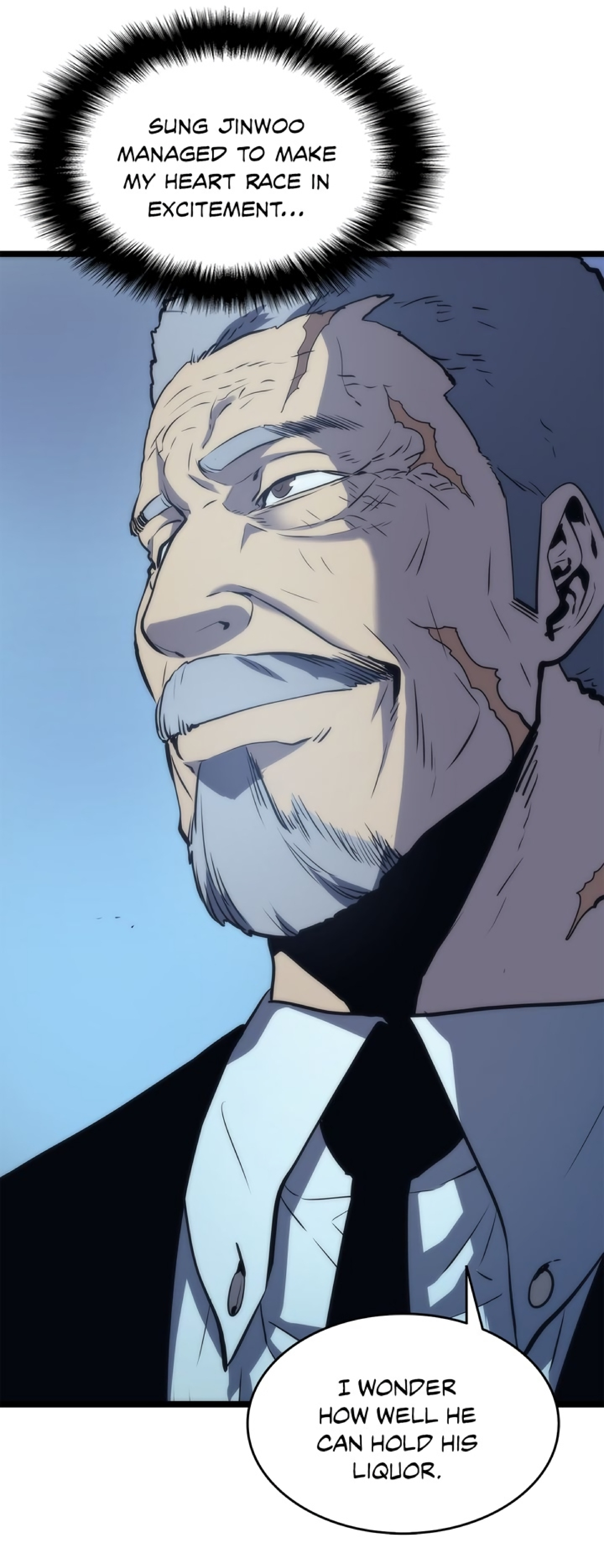

BUT YOU ARE THE LEADER OF THIS ASSOCIATION, SIR.
THAT'S RIGHT. I ALWAYS THOUGHT I HAD TO BE IN POWER IN ORDER TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT THE ASSOCIATION WAS THRIVING.


BUT IT SEEMS I WAS WRONG.
"A HUNTER BELONGS IN THE DUNGEONS," EH...?
CLEAR MY SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY.


BUT YOU HAVE A MEETING WITH THE MINISTERS TODAY...
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO WASTE MY ENERGY ON THOSE POMPOUS OLD GEEZERS.
HOW ABOUT WE GO OUT FOR SOME DRINKS?

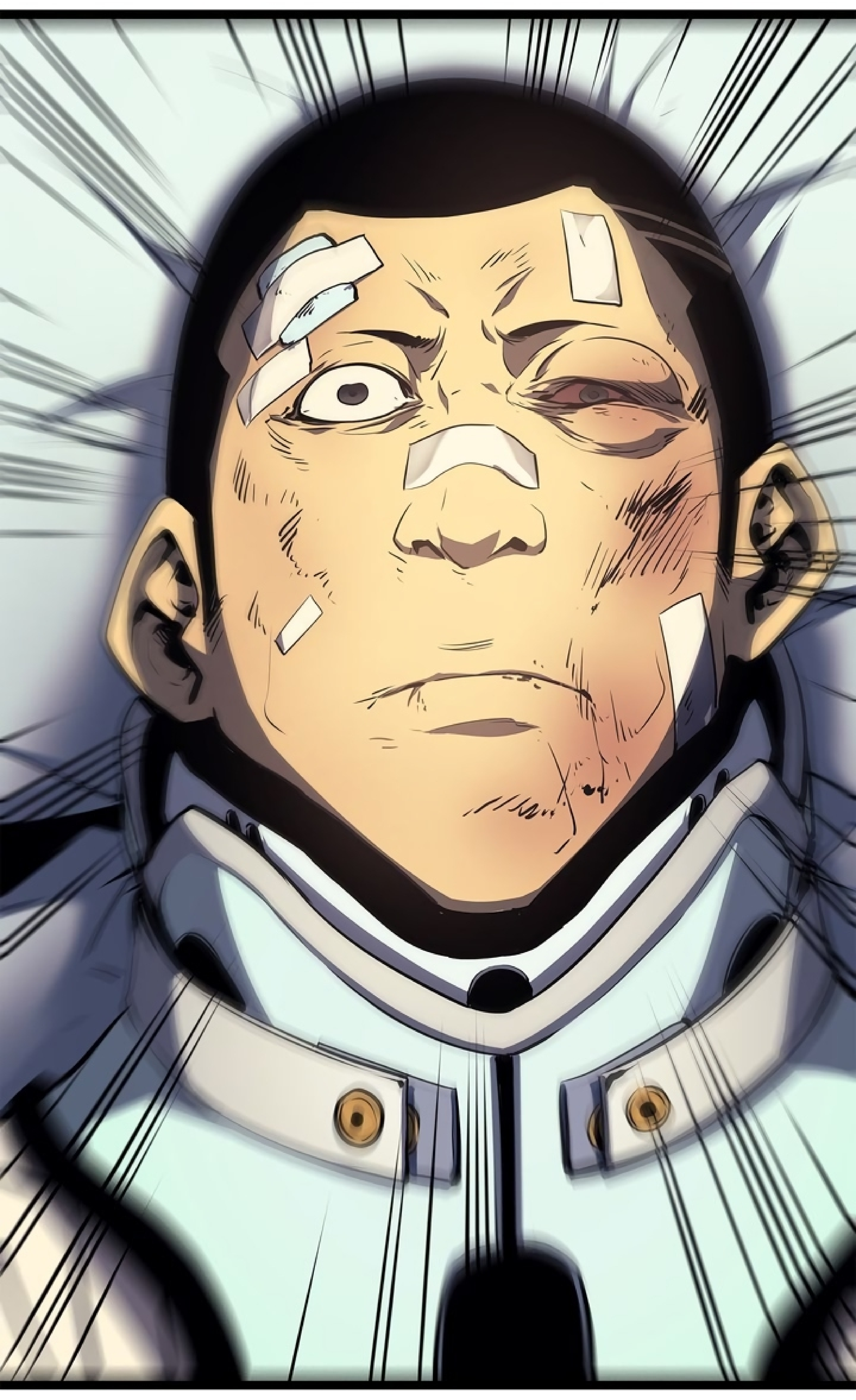

I'M NOT MUCH OF A DRINKER, SIR...
IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?

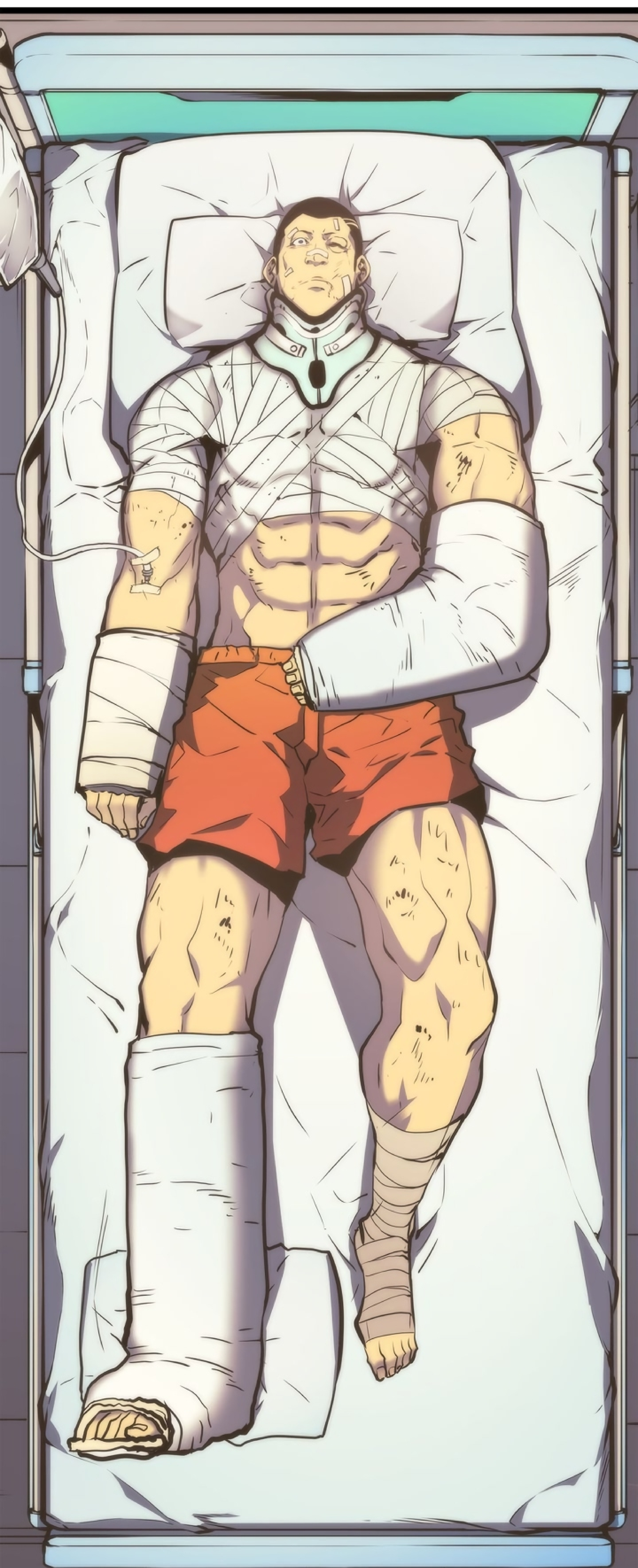

HUH, THAT'S A SURPRISE.


SUNG JINWOO MANAGED TO MAKE MY HEART RACE IN EXCITEMENT...
I WONDER HOW WELL HE CAN HOLD HIS LIQUOR.

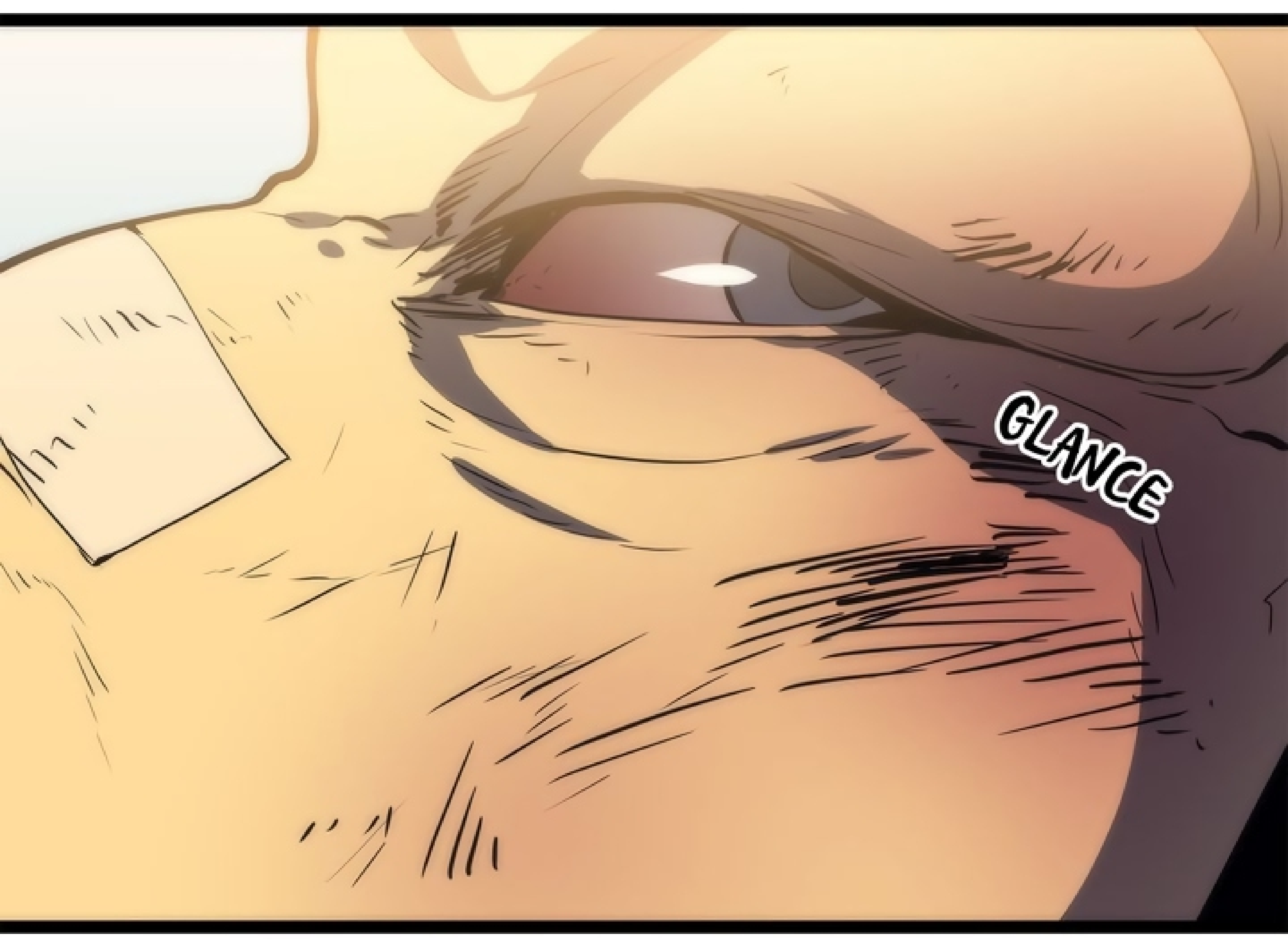
BOOM

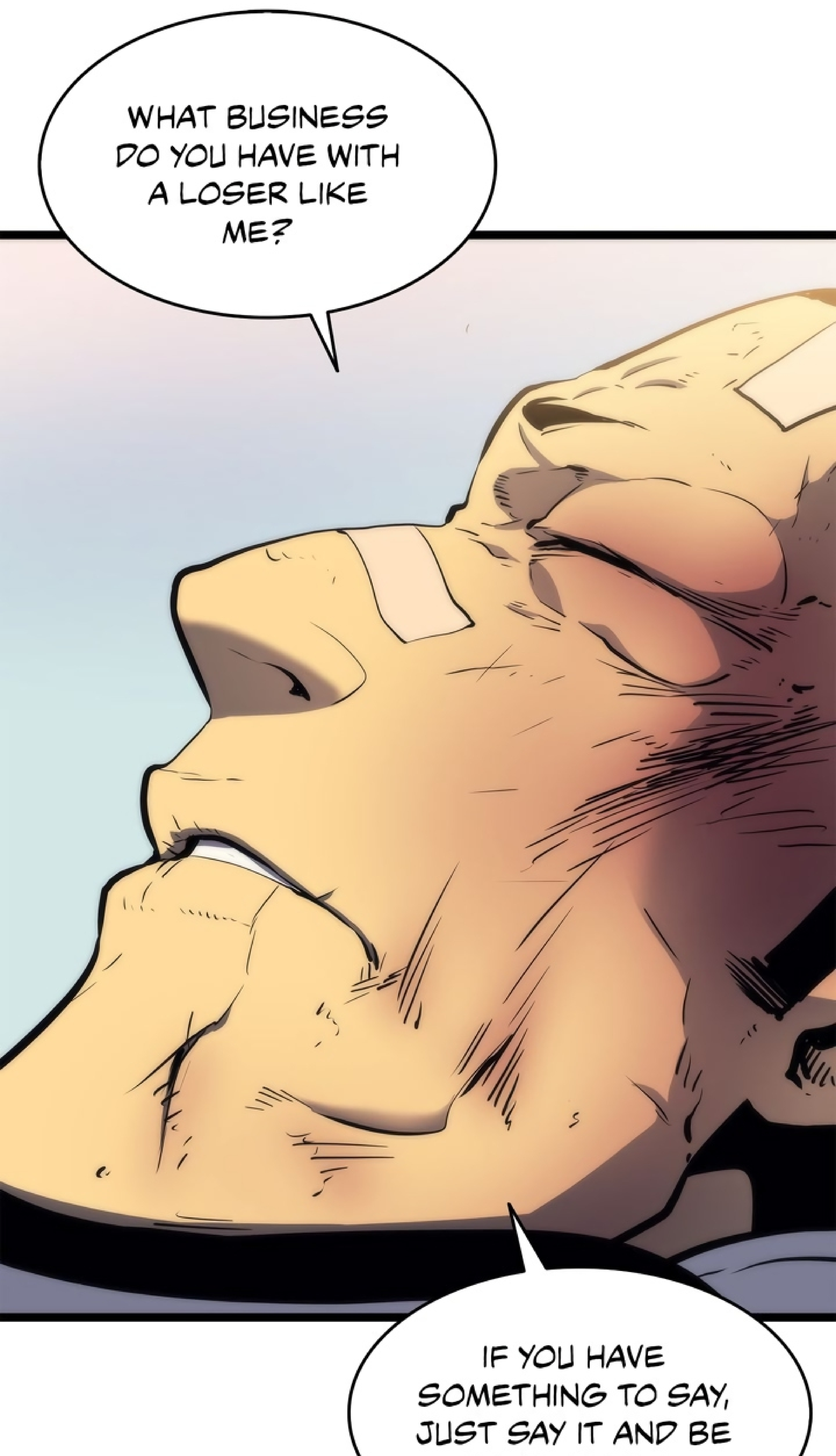
POW
WHOOSH

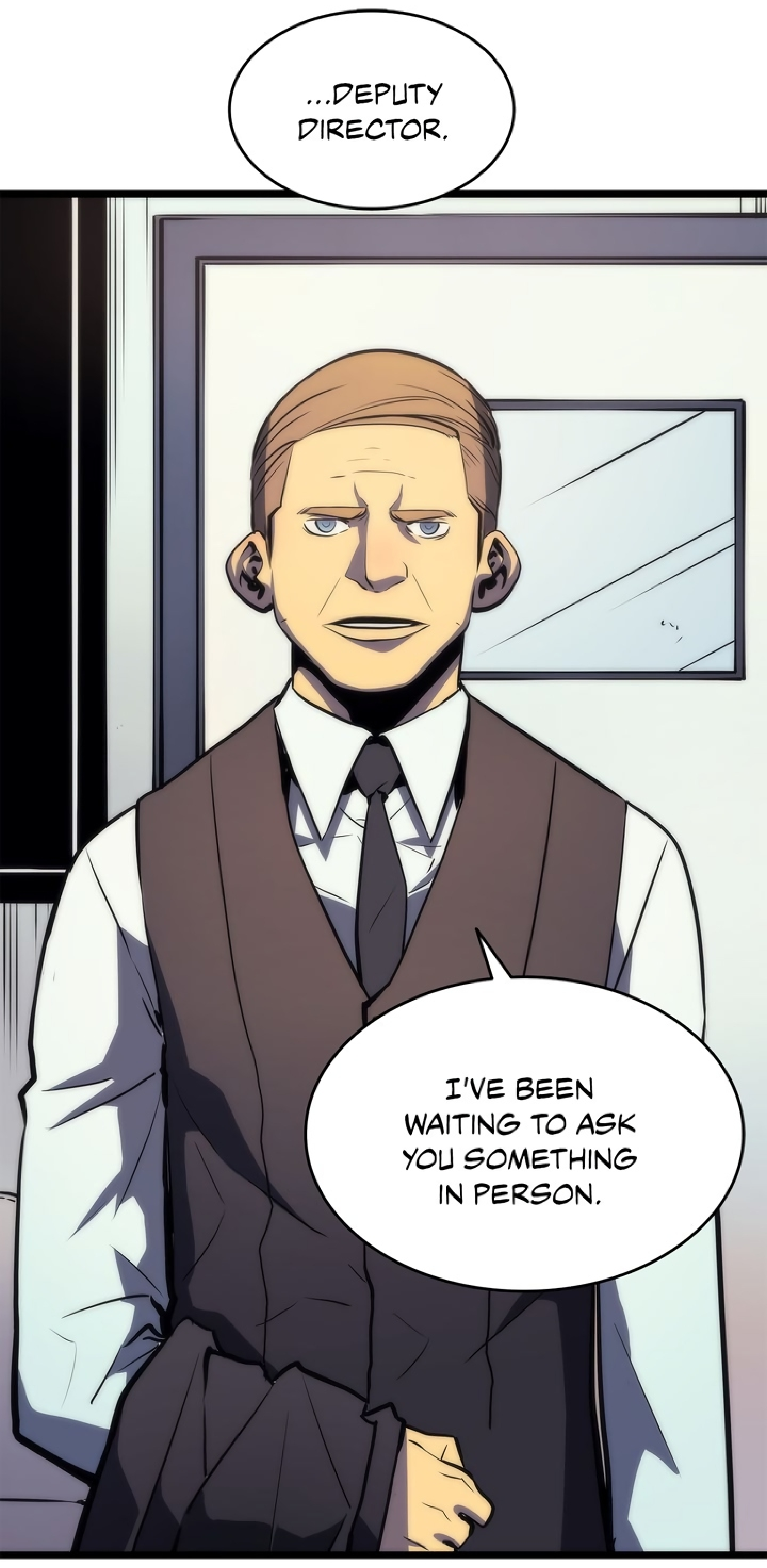


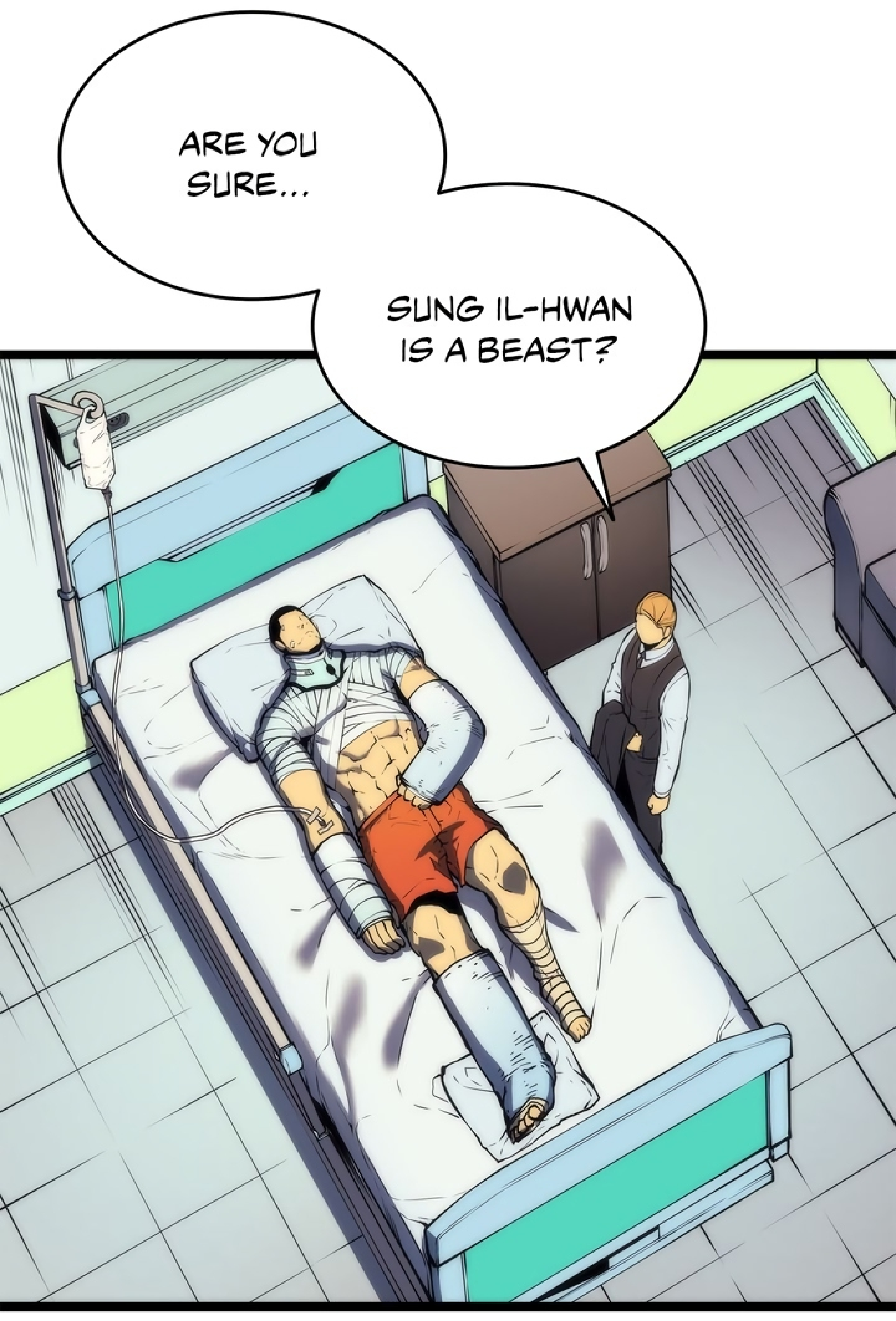

SO...

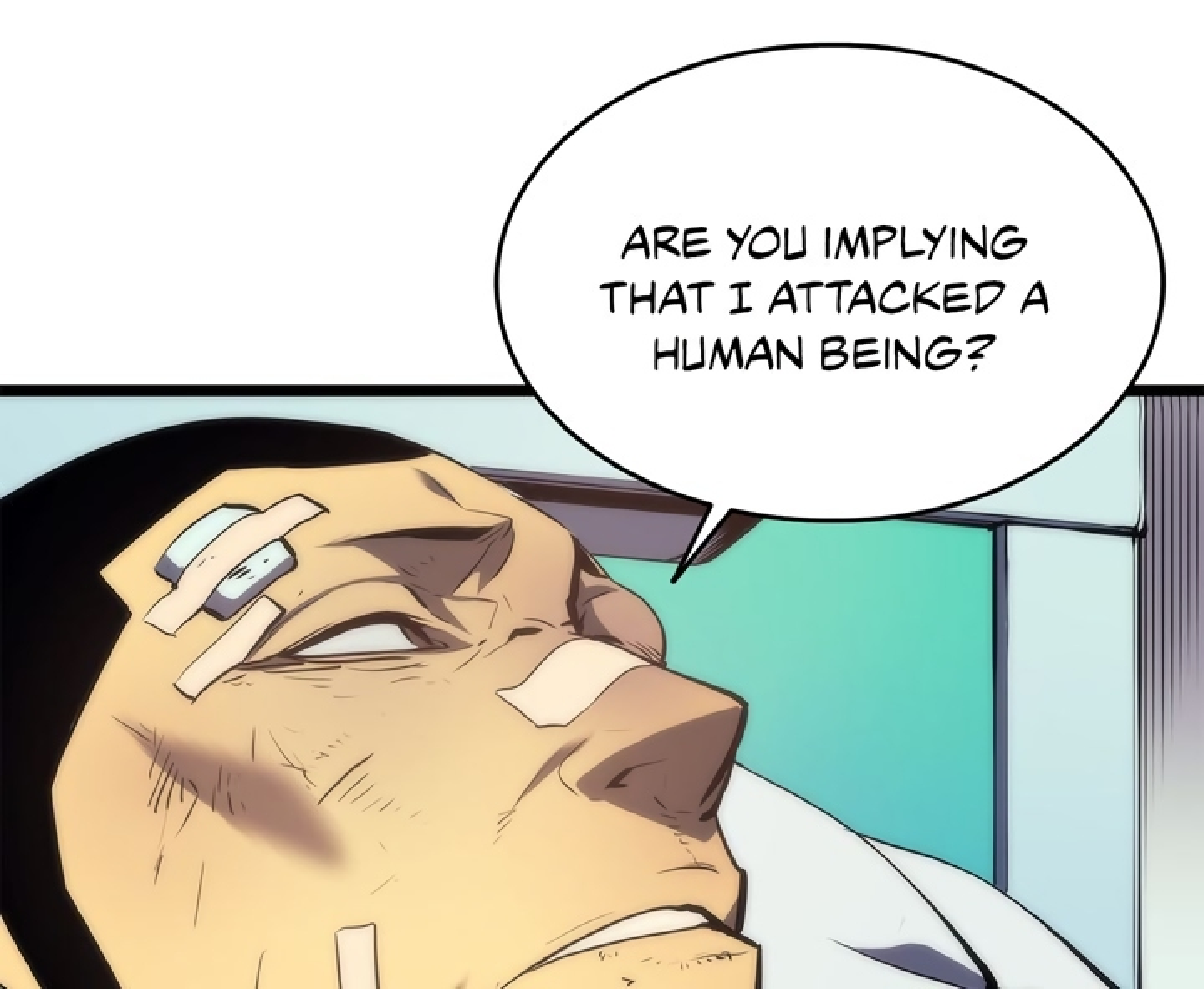
...IT WASN'T A DREAM?

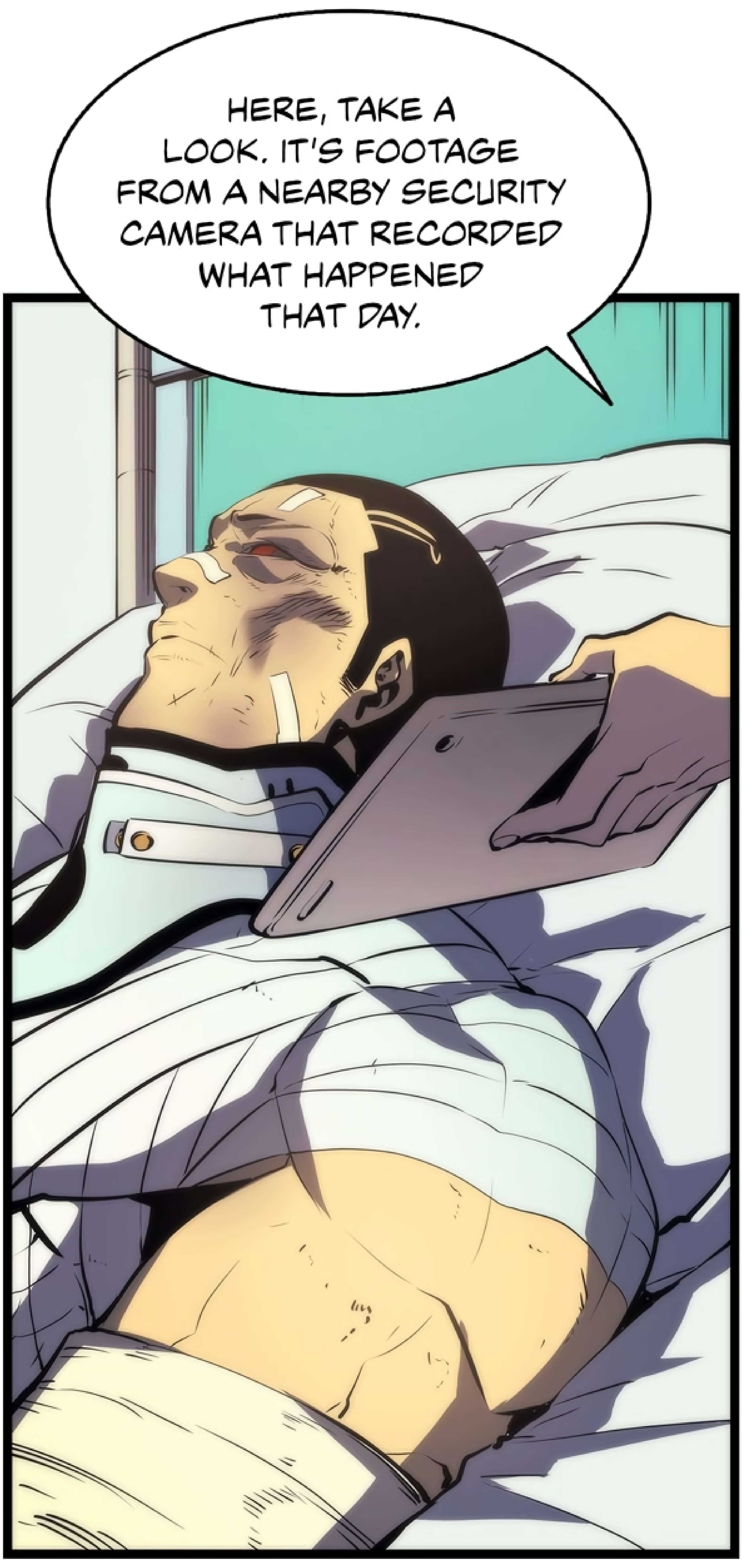


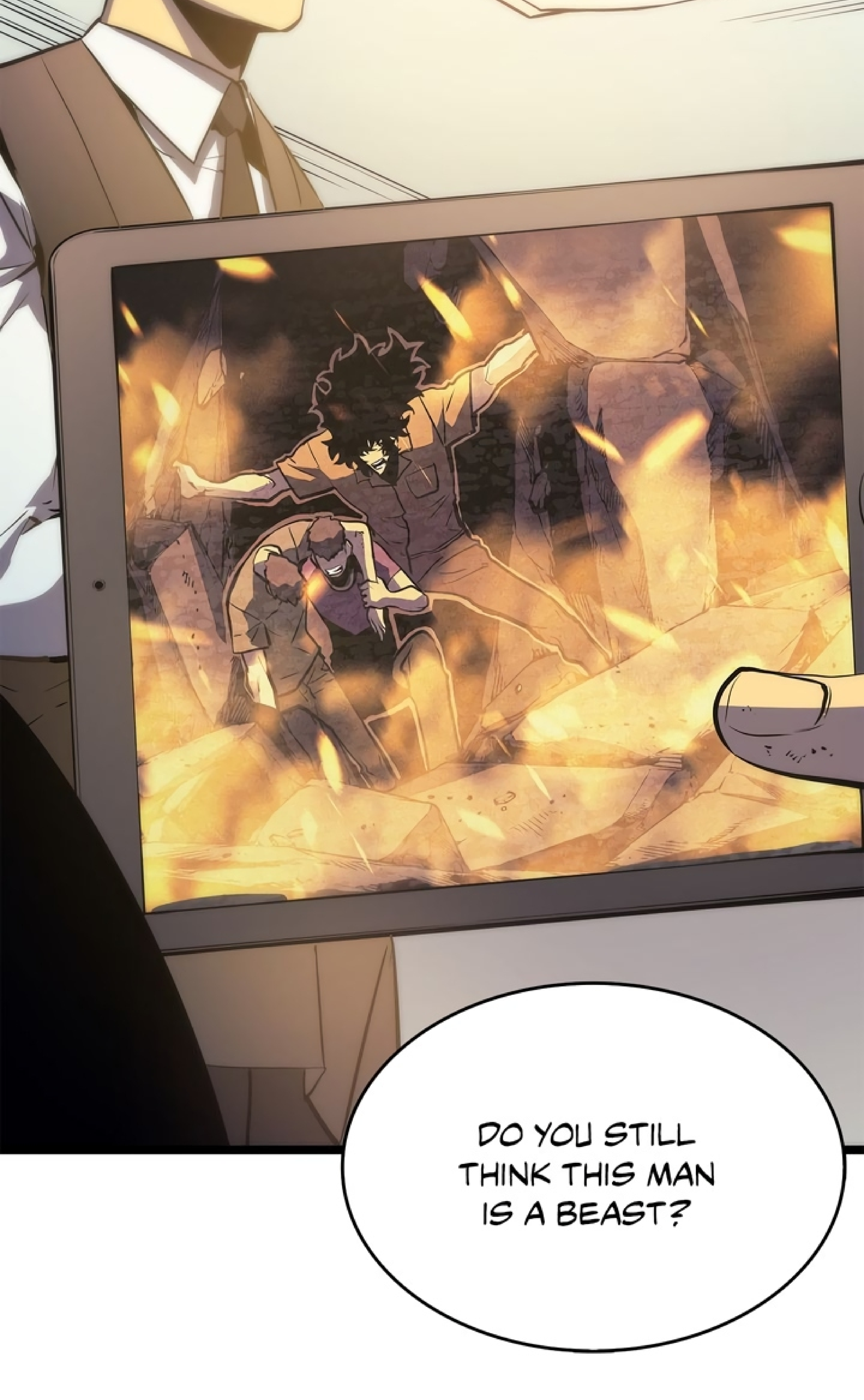

WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH A LOSER LIKE ME?
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, JUST SAY IT AND BE ON YOUR WAY...

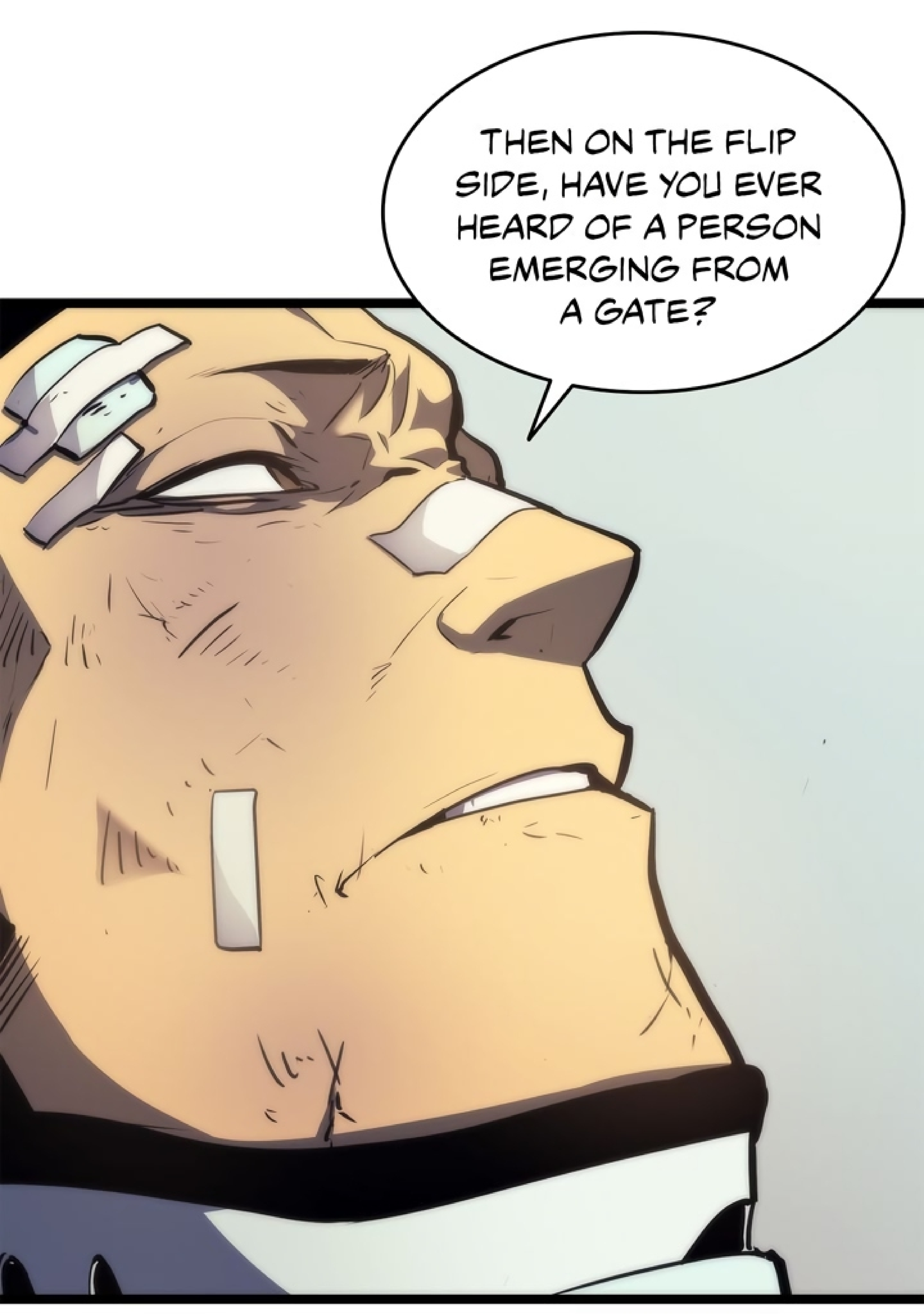

...DEPUTY DIRECTOR.
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING IN PERSON.

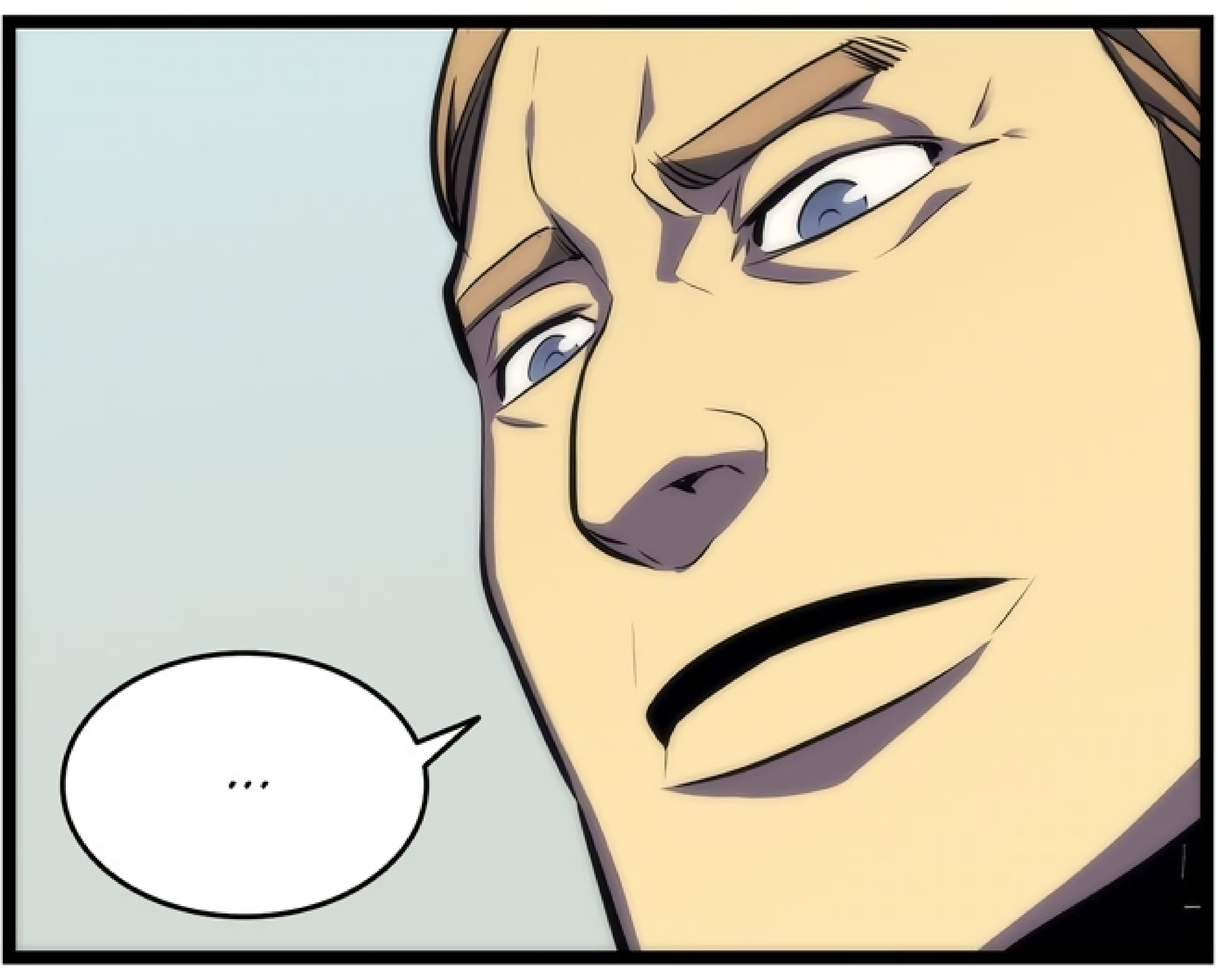

ARE YOU SURE...
SUNG IL-HWAN IS A BEAST?

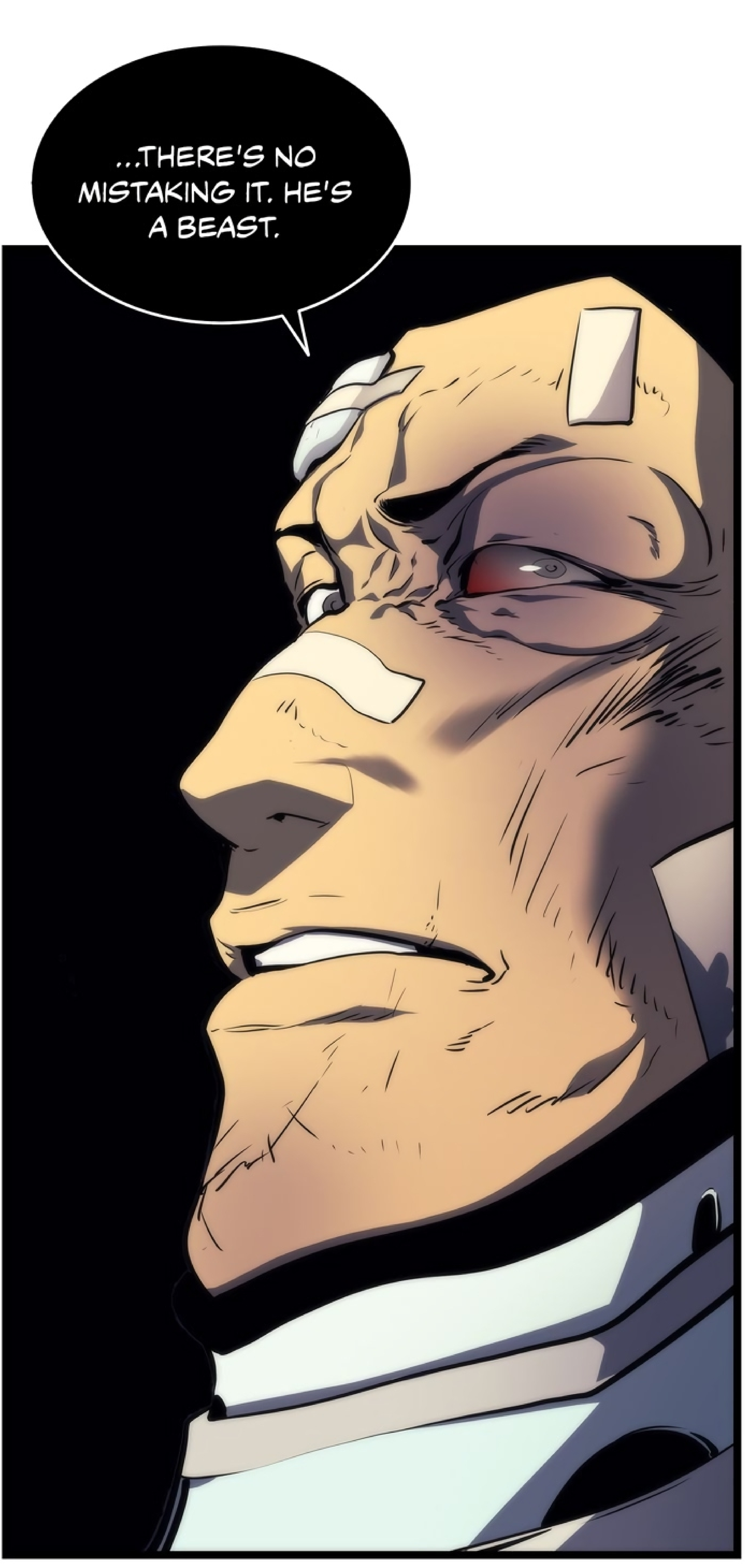

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I ATTACKED A HUMAN BEING?

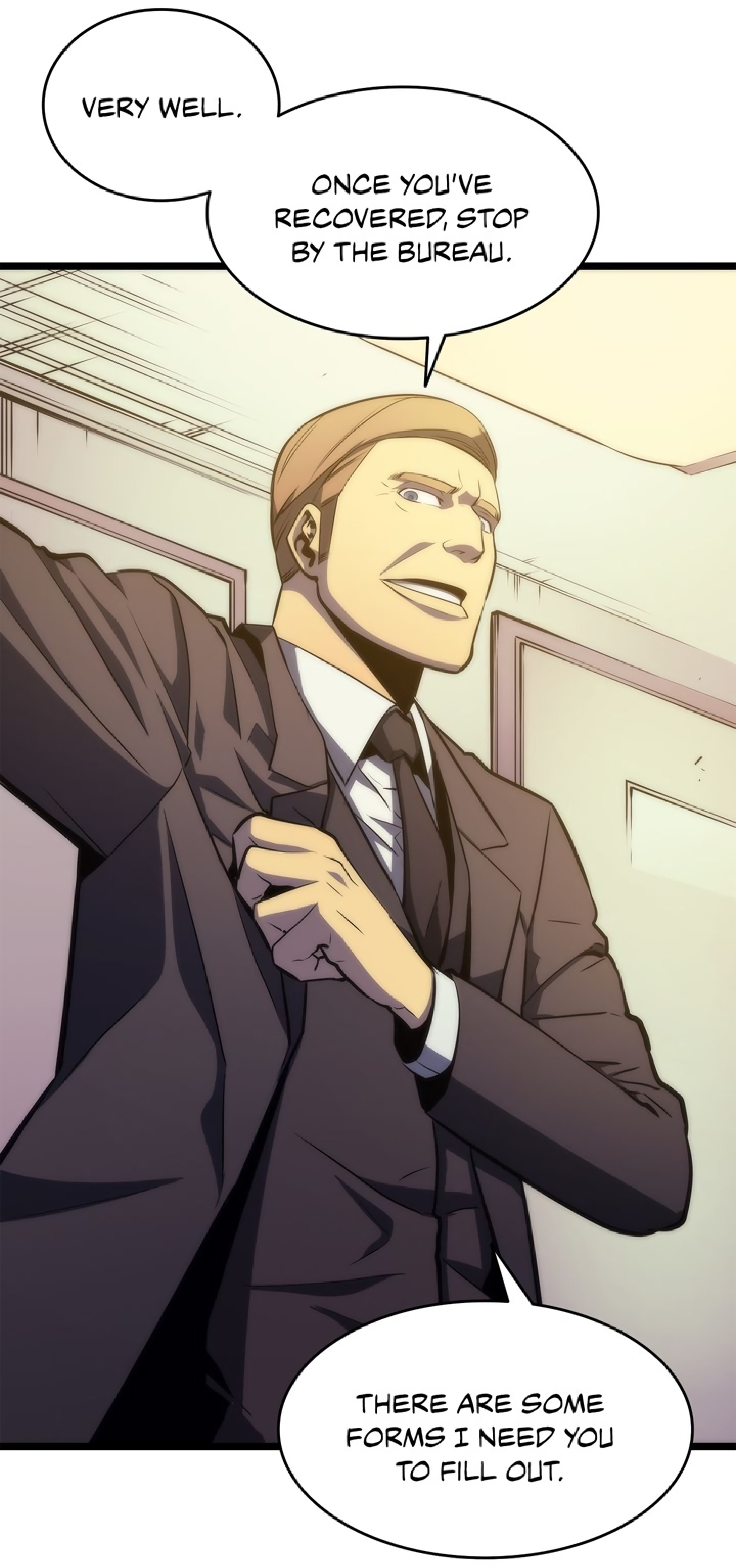

HERE, TAKE A LOOK. IT'S FOOTAGE FROM A NEARBY SECURITY CAMERA THAT RECORDED WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.

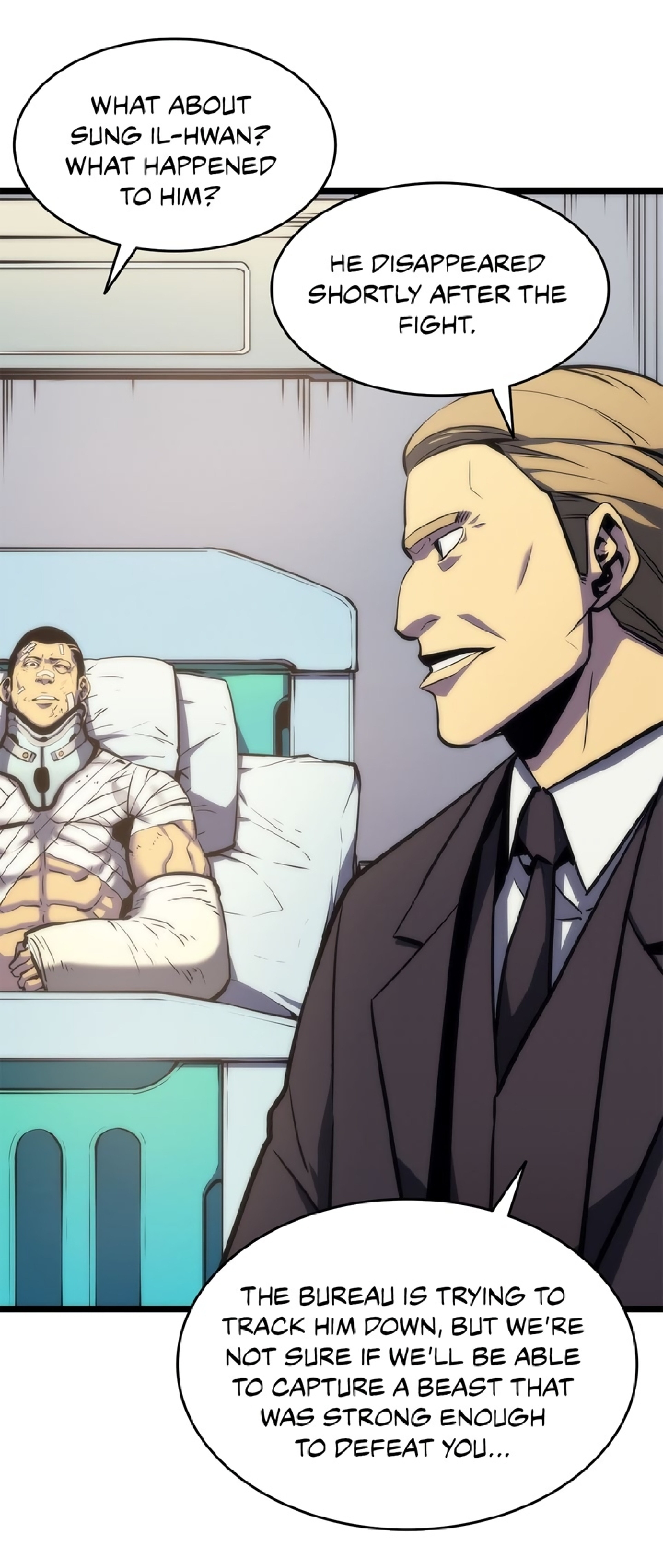

...I HAVE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF A MAGIC BEAST TRYING TO HELP HUMANS.
DO YOU STILL THINK THIS MAN IS A BEAST?

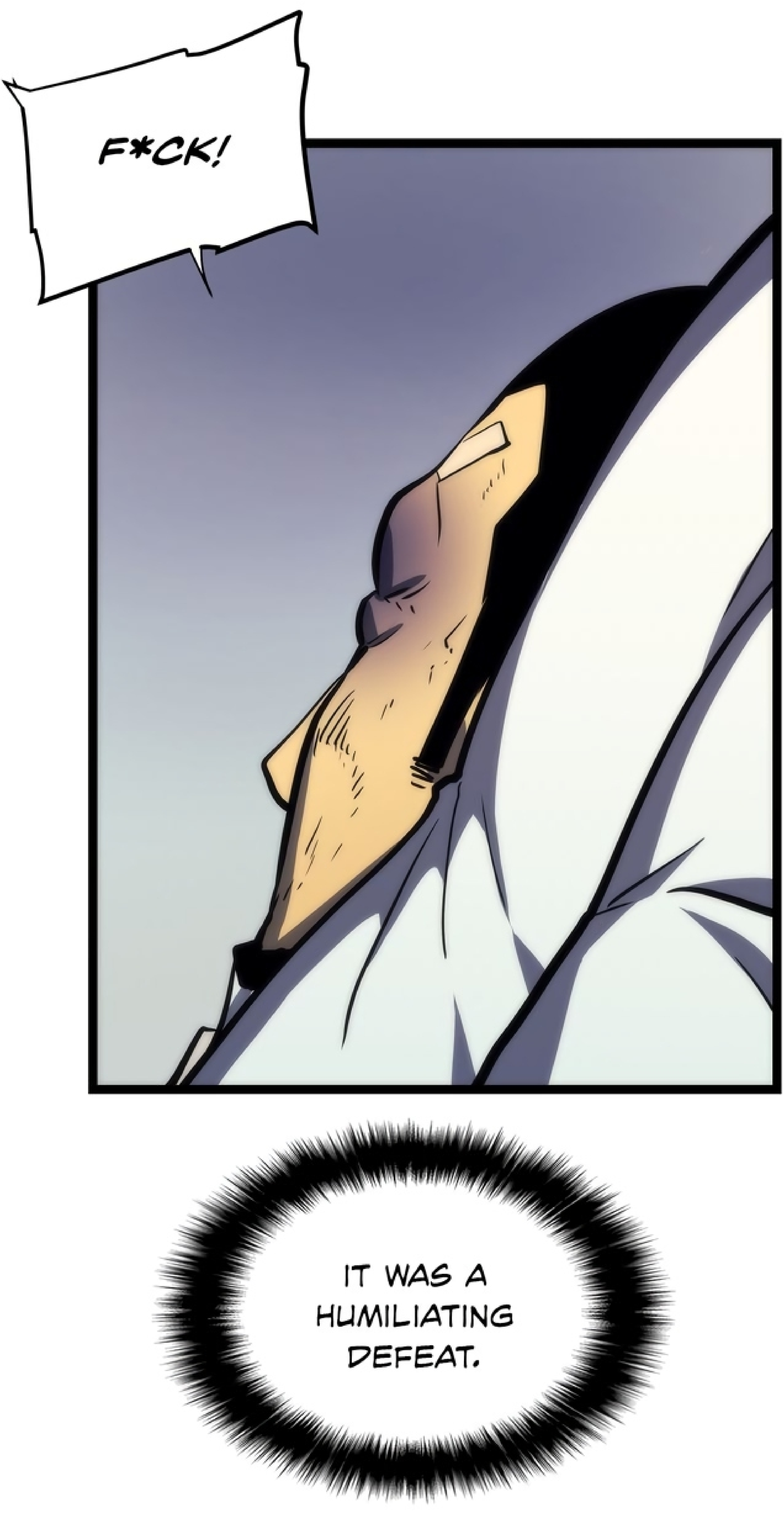

THEN ON THE FLIP SIDE, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A PERSON EMERGING FROM A GATE?


...


...THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT. HE'S A BEAST.

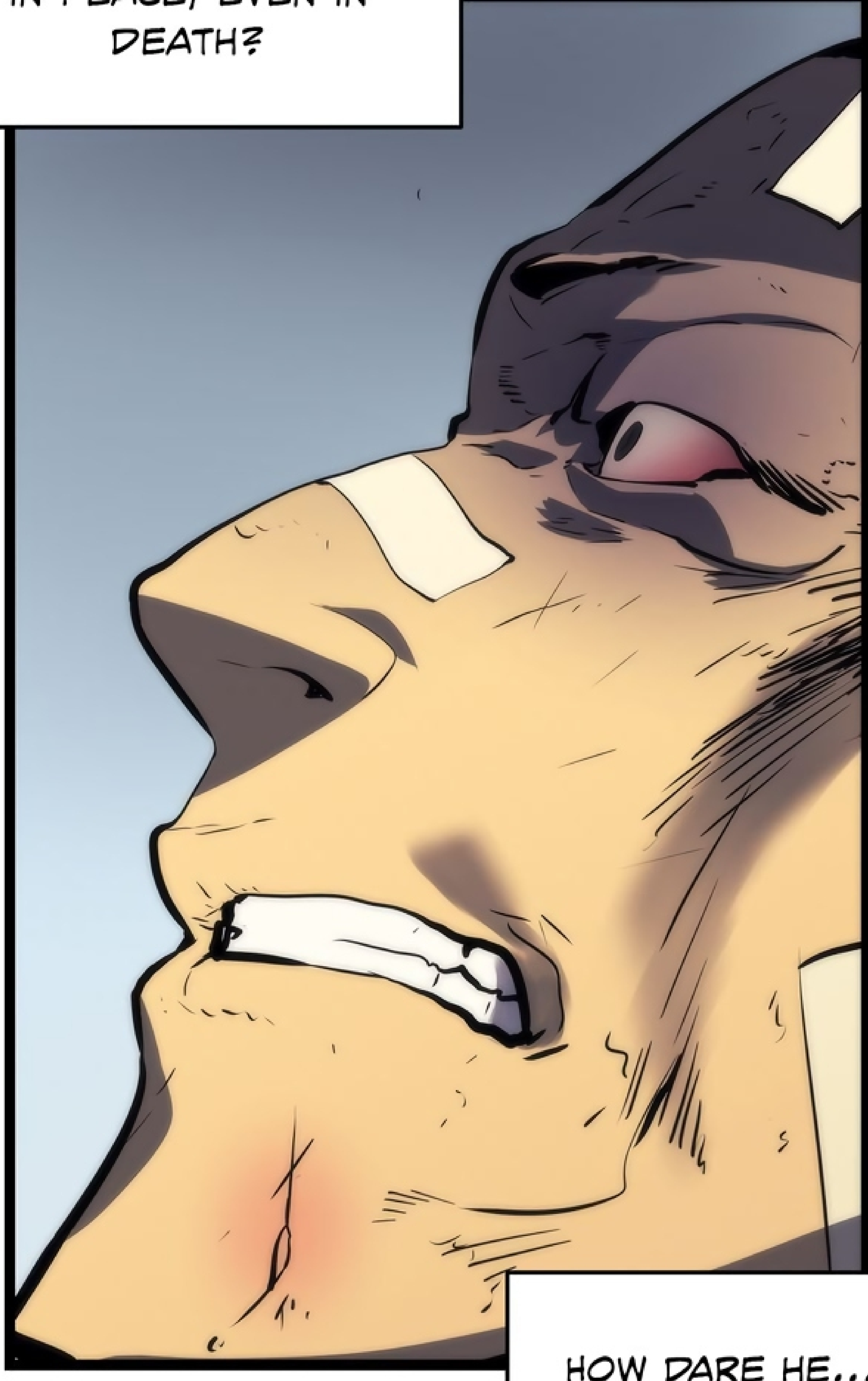

VERY WELL.
ONCE YOU'VE RECOVERED, STOP BY THE BUREAU.
THERE ARE SOME FORMS I NEED YOU TO FILL OUT.

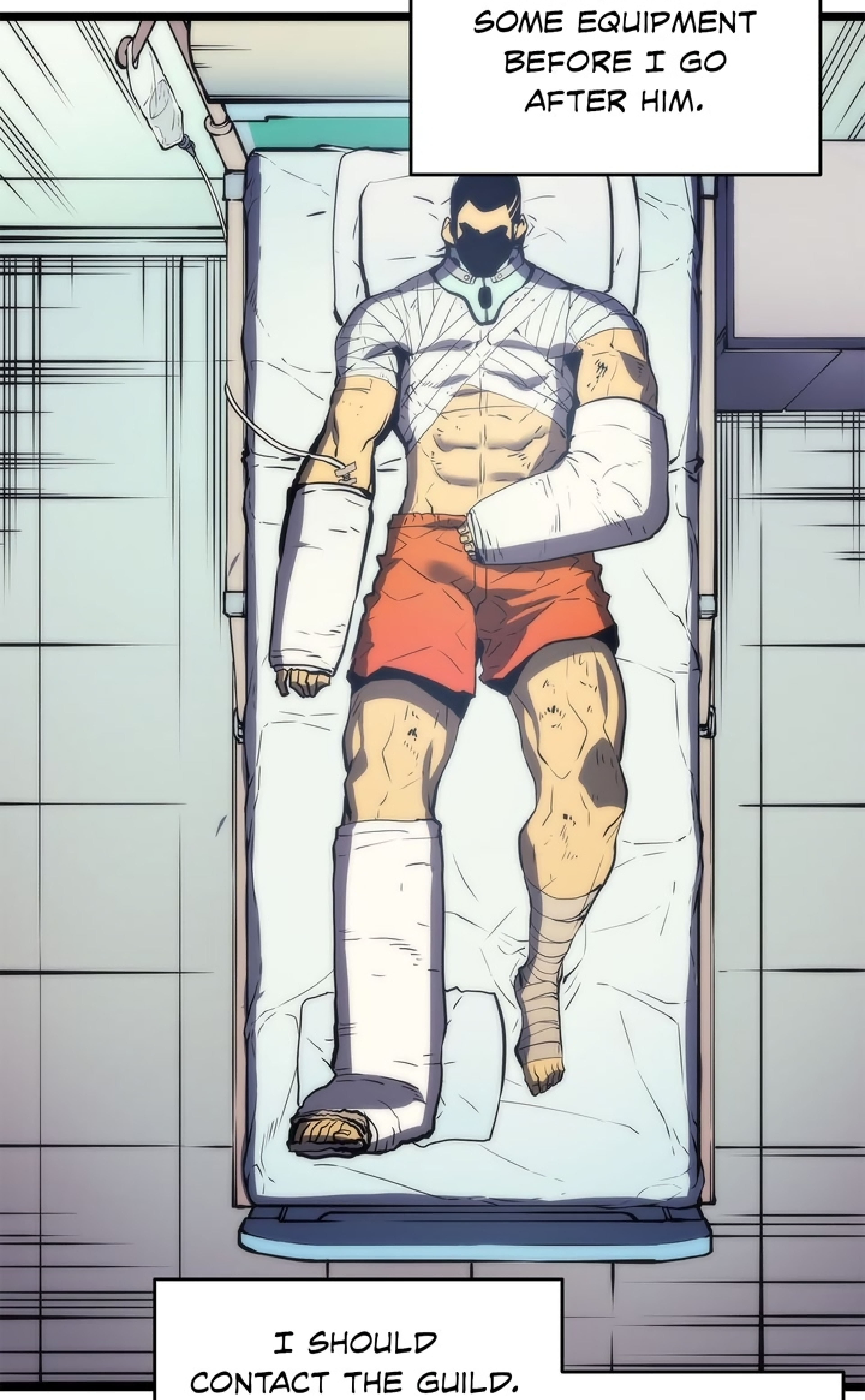

WHAT ABOUT SUNG IL-HWAN? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE DISAPPEARED SHORTLY AFTER THE FIGHT.
THE BUREAU IS TRYING TO TRACK HIM DOWN, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO CAPTURE A BEAST THAT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU...


F*CK!
IT WAS A HUMILIATING DEFEAT.

DON'T YOU EVER STEP FOOT IN KOREA.
I'M NOT SAYING THIS FOR MY SON'S SAKE, I'M SAYING IT FOR YOURS.
YOU WILL NEVER REST IN PEACE, EVEN IN DEATH.

I'LL NEVER REST IN PEACE, EVEN IN


IN PLACE, EVEN IN DEATH?
HOW DARE HE... THREATEN ME.


I ALREADY KNOW WHERE HE'S RUN OFF TO,
BUT I'LL NEED SOME EQUIPMENT BEFORE I GO AFTER HIM.
I SHOULD CONTACT THE GUILD.
ONCE I ACQUIRE SOME ARTIFACTS, I'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM CAPTURING HIM.

ONCE I'VE RECOVERED FROM MY INJURIES...
...I'M GONNA RIP HIM TO SHREDS.

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C WEBTOON

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